



THE MARY ROSE: SAVING HENRY VIII'S FLAGSHIP

NEW
LOOK!
Even more history brought to life

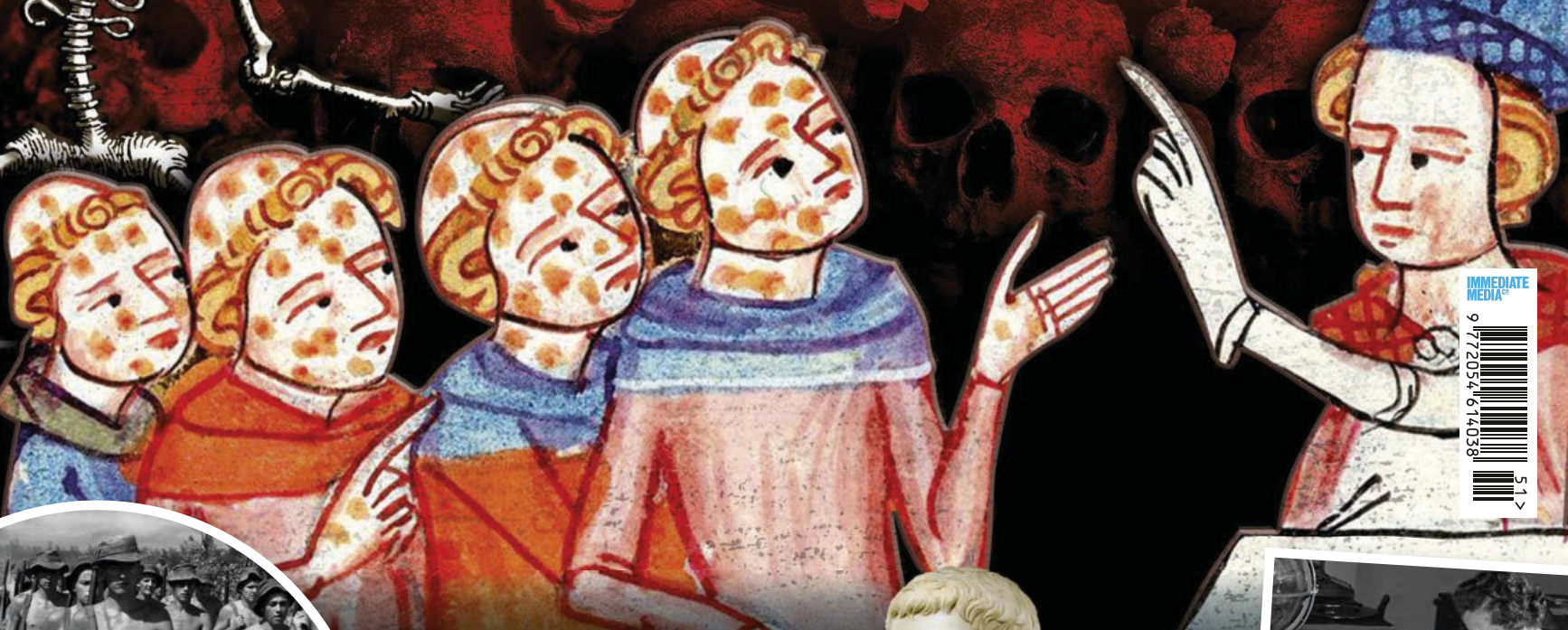
HISTORY

REVEALED

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE
ISSUE 51 // JANUARY 2018 // £4.99

THE BLACK DEATH

Pestilence, plague and the panic to
stay alive in medieval Britain



**KOREA: BRITAIN'S
FORGOTTEN WAR**

Why is the UK's largest action
since WWII so little-known?

**WAS CALIGULA'S
TYRANNY ALL IN
THE MIND?**

Rome's misunderstood Emperor



**HIDDEN
FIGURES**

The real women behind
Nasa's Apollo missions



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Around one third of the population of the British Isles was killed by the Black Death

Britain on the brink



Imagine, if you can, a mystery bug appearing out of nowhere – one with **no cure or treatment** and that kills nearly everyone infected in just a matter of days. Then consider **one-in-three people** in Britain being struck down by it over the course of two years. Unthinkable, isn't it? And yet that's exactly what happened halfway through the 14th century. **Where did this killer plague,**

Black Death, come from? How did it spread? And what was it like to live through these unutterable days? We reveal all from page 28.

But don't worry, it's not all doom and gloom to see in the new year, as we celebrate some of history's greatest pioneers this issue, from the extraordinary salvagers of **Henry VIII's favourite ship**, the *Mary Rose* (p46), to **those magnificent men** who took their flying machines into the skies (p56), to the **remarkable women whose mathematical genius** allowed the US to send men to the Moon (p69).

We've also given the magazine a bit of a spring clean, **taking all your comments on board**, and introduced a few new regular features. I hope you like what we've done – do write in and let us know. **Happy new Year!**

Paul McGuinness
Editor

Don't miss our February issue, on sale 25 January

THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

1977

The year the last execution by guillotine in France took place.
See page 24.

60,000+

Number of British military personnel who served in the Korean War, which began in 1950 and has never officially ended. It is Britain's largest military action since WWII. See page 62.

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Distance, in metres, of the Wright Brothers' first flight, near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, in 1903. See page 56.

ON THE COVER

Your key to the big stories...

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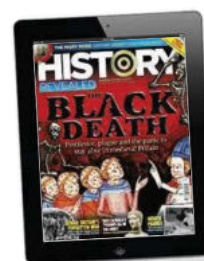


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No one could escape the terrible pestilence – was it punishment from God?



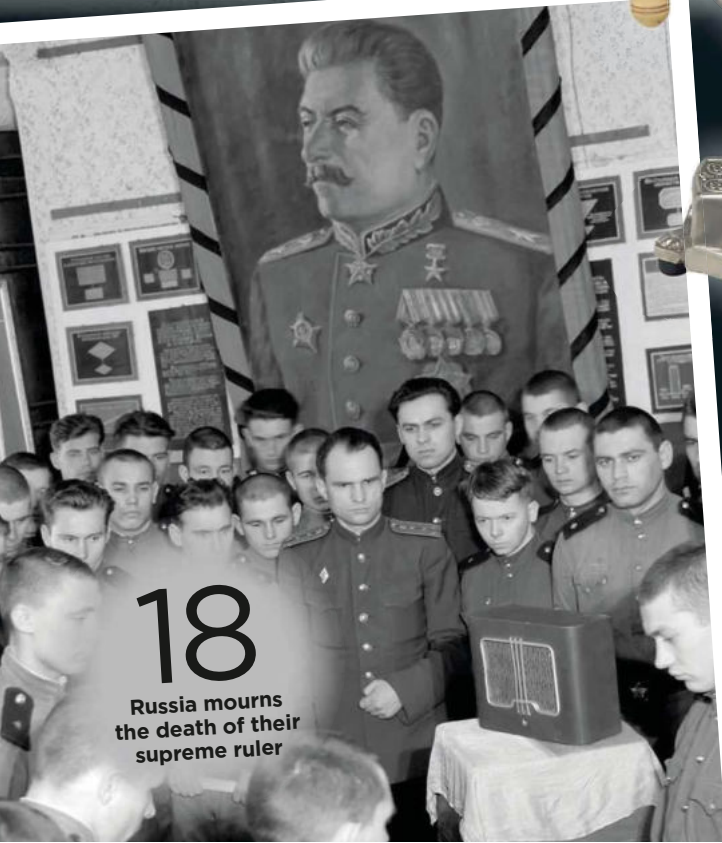
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Across Pontcysyllte's awesome aqueduct



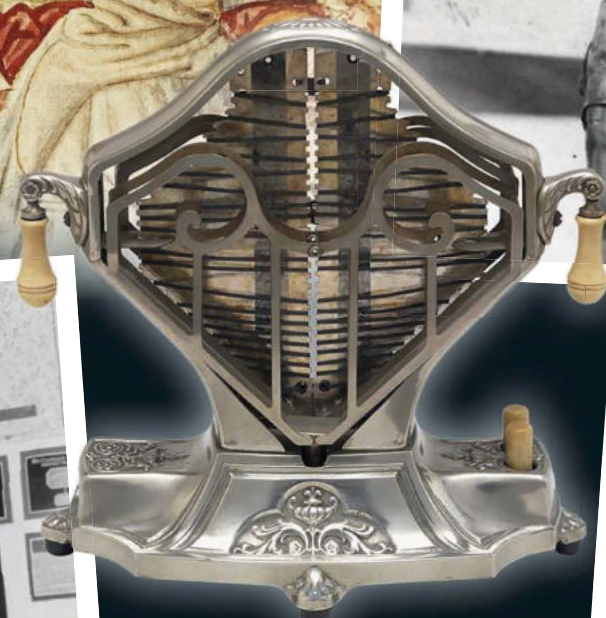
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Those magnificent men in their flying machines at the dawn of flight



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Russia mourns the death of their supreme ruler

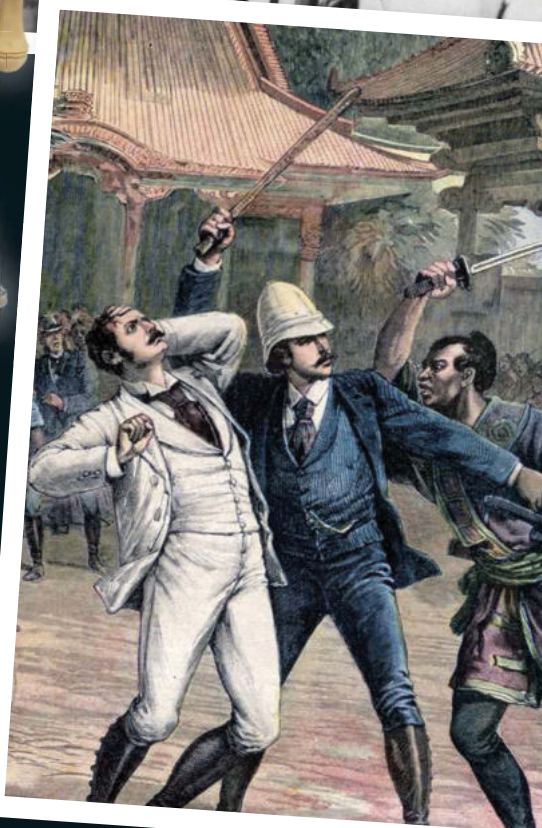


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You had one job to do! When assassinations go wrong



JANUARY 2018

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**LIKE IT?
SUBSCRIBE!**

More details on our special offer on **p26**



1938 MAKING HAY

In an unlikely juxtaposition against the London skyline, barges laden with bales are unloaded on the Thames near Westminster Bridge. While, in previous eras, similar boats would bring vast quantities of hay into the capital to service the thousands of horses trudging the city's streets, this cargo is altogether more precious. Esparto grass, imported from southern Europe and North Africa, was used to make bank notes.







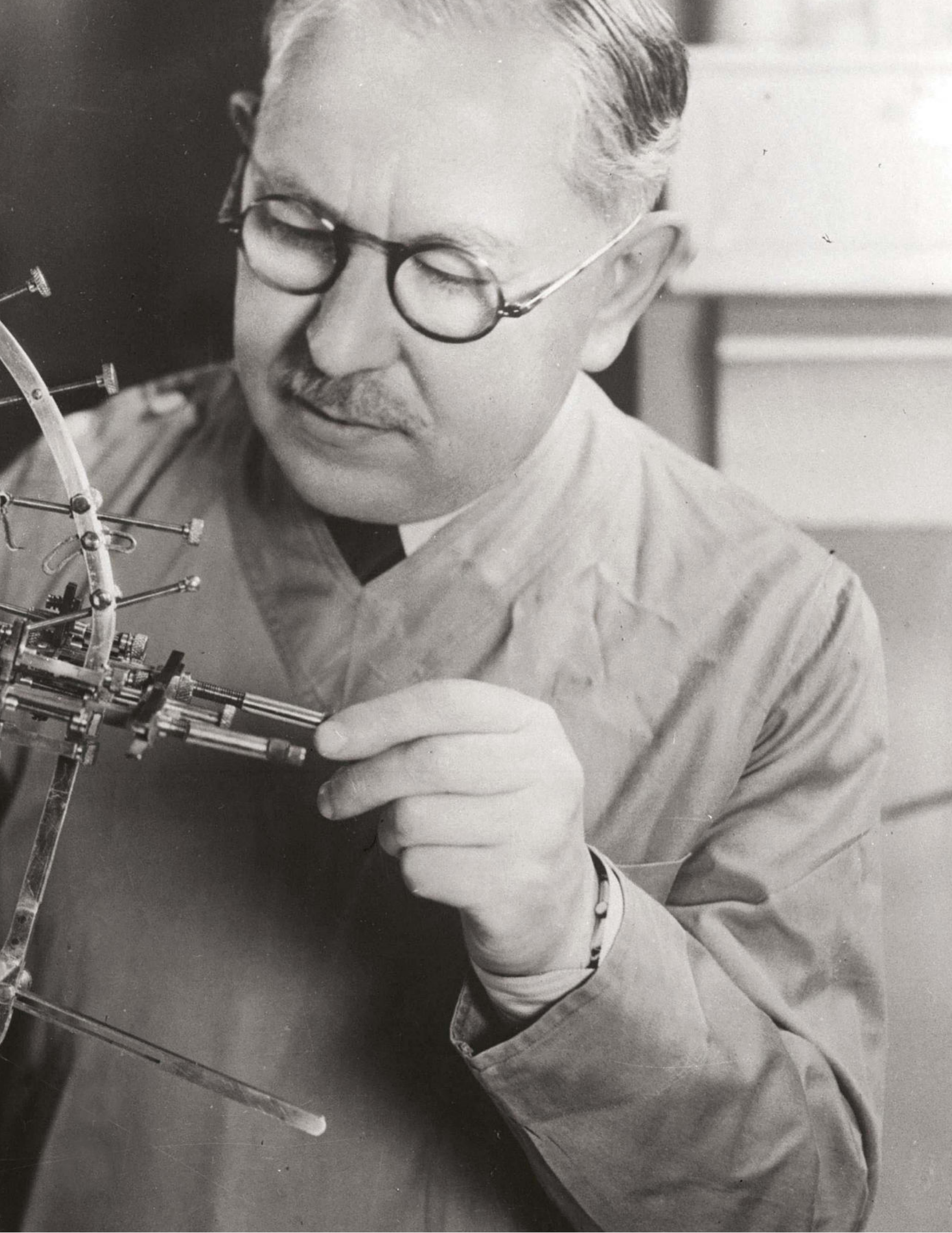
1946 HEADS UP

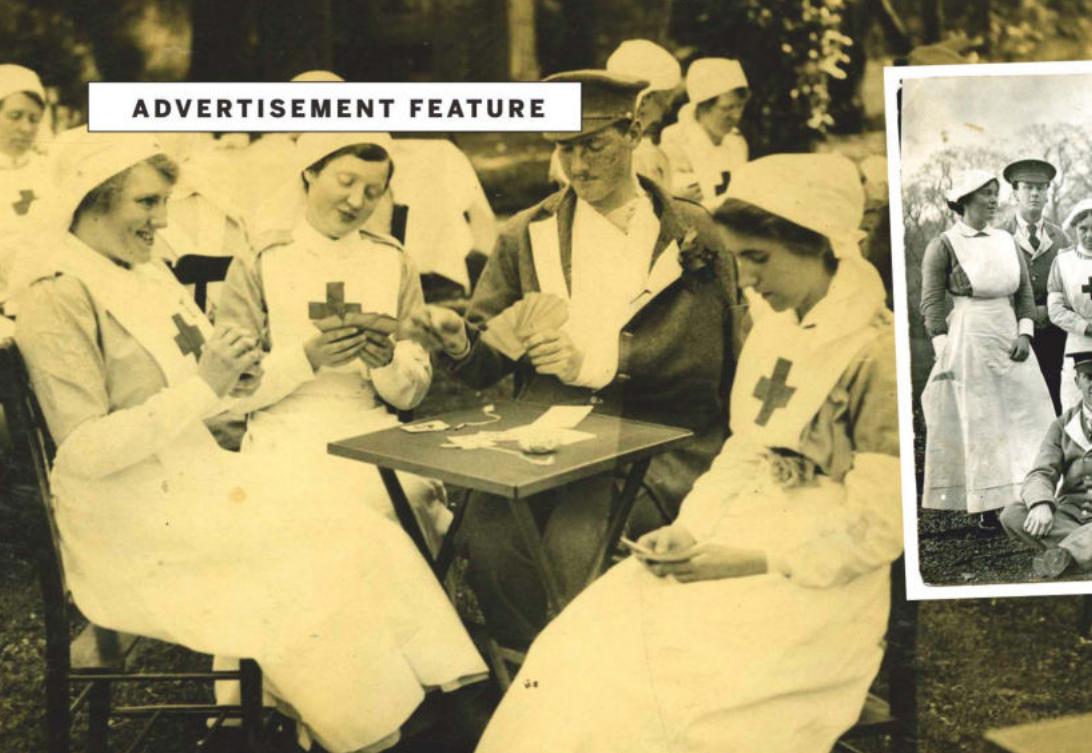
We may think we idolise football players these days, but that's nothing compared to the ancient Olmec people of Mexico's Gulf Coast. This colossal head, dwarfing the explorer Matthew Stirling, his wife and their guide is believed to represent a revered ball-player. It is one of 17 enormous helmeted heads found in the region to date, each face carved from a boulder of volcanic rock of between six and 50 tonnes. They would then be transported – no one knows how – over 60 miles to the sites where they were rediscovered 3,000 years later.

1933 FASHION VICTIM

It may look like a scene from *Bride of Frankenstein*, but this is Max Factor, make-up guru to the stars of Hollywood's heyday, testing his 'beauty micrometer' on actress/victim Dorothy Wilson. Factor devised the contraption to 'measure' beauty, literally quantifying looks as a series of measurements. Apparently, Wilson scored a creditable 99.6 per cent on the dubious scale.

GETTY IMAGES





A helping **HAND**

THE BRITISH RED CROSS HAS BEEN PROVIDING SUPPORT TO PEOPLE IN CRISIS FOR ALMOST 150 YEARS

The British Red Cross is better known for its international work in times of natural disaster or conflict, so many are surprised to learn of its role in supporting our healthcare services here in the UK. Established in 1870 and initially aimed at helping those caught up in conflict, the British Red Cross later expanded its services to support people in peacetime as well. Read the timeline opposite to find out more about key periods in the history of the British Red Cross's health support work.



Author Vera Brittain in her WWI Red Cross nurse uniform

BE THERE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Today the British Red Cross has 20,500 volunteers and 4,000 staff helping millions of people to cope with all kinds of crises - from responding to major disasters abroad to supporting people in a street like your own.

Gifts in wills help make sure volunteers and staff are ready as soon as an emergency strikes, whether that's an earthquake, a conflict, or someone in the UK needing to get home from hospital. The kindness of people like you is essential in funding everything the Red Cross does and ensuring it can continue to support vulnerable people for many years to come.

Without the dedication of its volunteers, the British Red Cross wouldn't be able to help those in need, and without the generosity of its supporters, there would be no help to give.

To find out more about supporting the British Red Cross with a gift in your will, call 0300 500 0401 or visit redcross.org.uk/legacy

– WW1

When the First World War broke out, the British Red Cross and the Order of St John of Jerusalem combined to form the Joint War Committee. In total, they set up more than 3,000 auxiliary hospitals, and medical care was supported by more than 90,000 Red Cross volunteers.

– WW2

During the Second World War, the convalescent homes and auxiliary hospitals also admitted civilians, and residential nurseries were provided for children, many of whom were caught up in air raids.

– POST-WAR

In 1946, the Red Cross launched a five-year plan to help in the interim period before the Ministry of Health, and its fledgling NHS, could fulfil its extensive hospital programme. The charity continued to offer support after the National Health Service Act came into being.

– TODAY

In the 21st century, the Red Cross continues to support the NHS in a number of ways. It provides mobility aids such as wheelchairs on short-term loan, and supports those who are isolated or struggling with loneliness. Returning home from hospital can be difficult, especially when people are on their own, and every year the Red Cross also helps more than 200,000 people who would otherwise find it difficult to cope. Volunteers provide a listening ear in people's times of need and support to help them regain their independence.

HISTORY IN THE NEWS



ROMAN ABOUT
Discoveries like this defensive ditch and iron javelin suggest Caesar's forces massed at Thanet

THE SITE OF CAESAR'S BRITISH INVASION FOUND

An unearthed Roman fort in Kent could be where Julius Caesar launched his invasion of Britain

While preparing for a new road-building project near Pegwell Bay, Kent, in November 2017, archaeologists from the University of Leicester made a remarkable discovery.

Unearthing a deep, defensive trench that dated to the Roman era, they dug a little further and uncovered the remains of a 20-hectare military base, filled to the brim with artefacts dating from around 50 BC. Better still, it is now believed that this ancient fortress proves that the feared Roman general Julius Caesar launched his attempted invasion of Britain from the Isle of Thanet.

As the first archaeological evidence of Caesar's 54 BC invasion, the discovery is of monumental importance. Treasures found at the site include wonderfully preserved Roman weapons, pottery and even human remains, which have helped to pinpoint the construction of the military base to the time of Caesar's landing in Britain. Historians also used Caesar's description of the invasion and the surrounding landscape to verify that this was indeed the site.

Andrew Fitzpatrick, a researcher for the University of Leicester, explains, "The main purpose of the site was to defend

the approaching [Roman] fleet". The invasion force would have comprised of around 800 ships, frightening the Britons into hiding in the hills. Caesar quickly returned home, and though he failed to place a permanent occupying force in Britain, he laid the foundations for Claudius's large-scale assault a century later.

Simon Mason, chief archaeological officer for Kent County Council, said, "It has been fantastic to be part of a project that is helping to bring another fantastic chapter, that of Caesar, to Thanet's story."



HIGHLIGHTS

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When Spanish Flu caused worldwide panicp20



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Significant events from one year in historyp22



IN THE NEWS

CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN SAVES CRUMBLING CHÂTEAU

Some 6,500 strangers secure the future of a medieval castle in Poitou-Charentes

The Château de la Mothe-Chandeniers, sitting pretty atop a picturesque moat, is covered in vines and vegetation, falling slowly into ruin. The 13th-century castle, surrounded by tranquil countryside, and its grey turrets and overgrown gardens are just a shadow of their former glory. Though many had long since given up on the castle, people of the internet took it upon themselves to save it from its tragic fate. In fact, 6,500 total strangers clubbed together to buy the castle, at the bargain price of €51 each.

Built by the powerful Bauçay family, the castle was captured twice by English invaders in the medieval era. It later became known as a raucous party destination, where royalty and wealthy high-society figures gathered in celebration. But its opulence made it a target of the French revolutionaries, and it was once again raided.

When things had settled down a little in 1809, a French businessman bought the castle

with the intention of fully restoring it. He only got as far as adding a vineyard before it passed, in 1857, to Baron Joseph Lejeune, who completed the restoration and added a few fairytale touches. But then a huge fire in 1932 gutted most of the castle and the valuable items within, so its owner abandoned the château to rot among the woodland. It was finally sold off, in small bits, in the 1980s.

Now, a French heritage group called Adopt un Château has called upon the powers of crowdfunding to buy the castle back. They

raised €500,000 well ahead of schedule, with each donor paying 51 each. Donations came from places as far away as Brazil, Japan and Australia. Its fundraisers are not done yet, and hope to reach a million Euros.

Later this year, shareholders will be able to have their say in restoration work, check its progress online and even visit their beloved castle. "It is done!", the fundraisers declared triumphantly on their website. "The Château de la Mothe-Chandeniers now belongs to thousands of internet users."

GUARD OF HONOUR

The internet investors hope to restore the ruin to its former fairytale glory

SIX OF THE BEST... ABANDONED CASTLES

Our pick of the world's most beautiful ruined castles



1 CASTILLO DE LOARRE, SPAIN

Built in the Middle Ages on the boundary between Christian and Muslim lands, it was left to fall into ruin in the 19th century. You can spot it in Ridley Scott's 2005 epic *Kingdom of Heaven*.



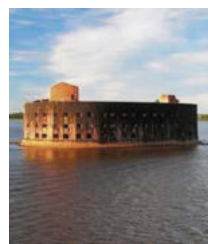
2 CRAC DES CHEVALIERS, SYRIA

The military order Knights Hospitaller developed this stunning fort, but left after Mamluk troops forced them to surrender. It has been damaged during the Syrian civil war.



3 GOLKONDA, INDIA

This beautiful fortress overlooking the city of Hyderabad in southern India was once home to the world's most famous diamonds, including the Hope Diamond and Koh-i-Noor.



4 FORT ALEXANDER, RUSSIA

Near St Petersburg, on an artificial island, is this imposing sea fortress. It was once the site of a plague laboratory, but these days it's more popular as a location for rave parties.



5 BANNERMAN'S CASTLE, USA

The US isn't known for its castles, but this military storehouse on an island in the Hudson River was designed to resemble one. It's been in ruins since gunpowder exploded in 1920.



6 KRZYŻTOPÓR CASTLE, POLAND

The passion project of a Polish nobleman (who was really into black magic), this mystical castle was built in the 17th century, but mysteriously deserted a century later.

IN THE NEWS

AUSCHWITZ INMATE'S NOTES REVEALED

Marcel Nadjari, a member of the *Sonderkommando*, buried his first-hand account of Auschwitz in 1944. Now, we can read it

In 1980, the upsetting testimony of a Greek-Jewish inmate at Auschwitz, who had been forced to assist the Nazis in murdering his fellow Jews during the Holocaust, was rediscovered.

Nobody could make out the words, though, as they had been reduced to little more than a blue smudge. But last December, using Adobe Photoshop, a historian managed finally to decipher what was written. Assisted by a Greek-British scholar, the words were then translated from Greek to English.

Nadjari describes scenes of utter horror. "People enter [the death chamber] naked and, once about 3,000 are locked inside, they are gassed. After 6 or 7 minutes of suffering they die."

His manuscript will be an invaluable resource for researchers of the Holocaust.

SILENT WITNESS

Nadjari hid his notes in a flask and buried it near Crematorium III

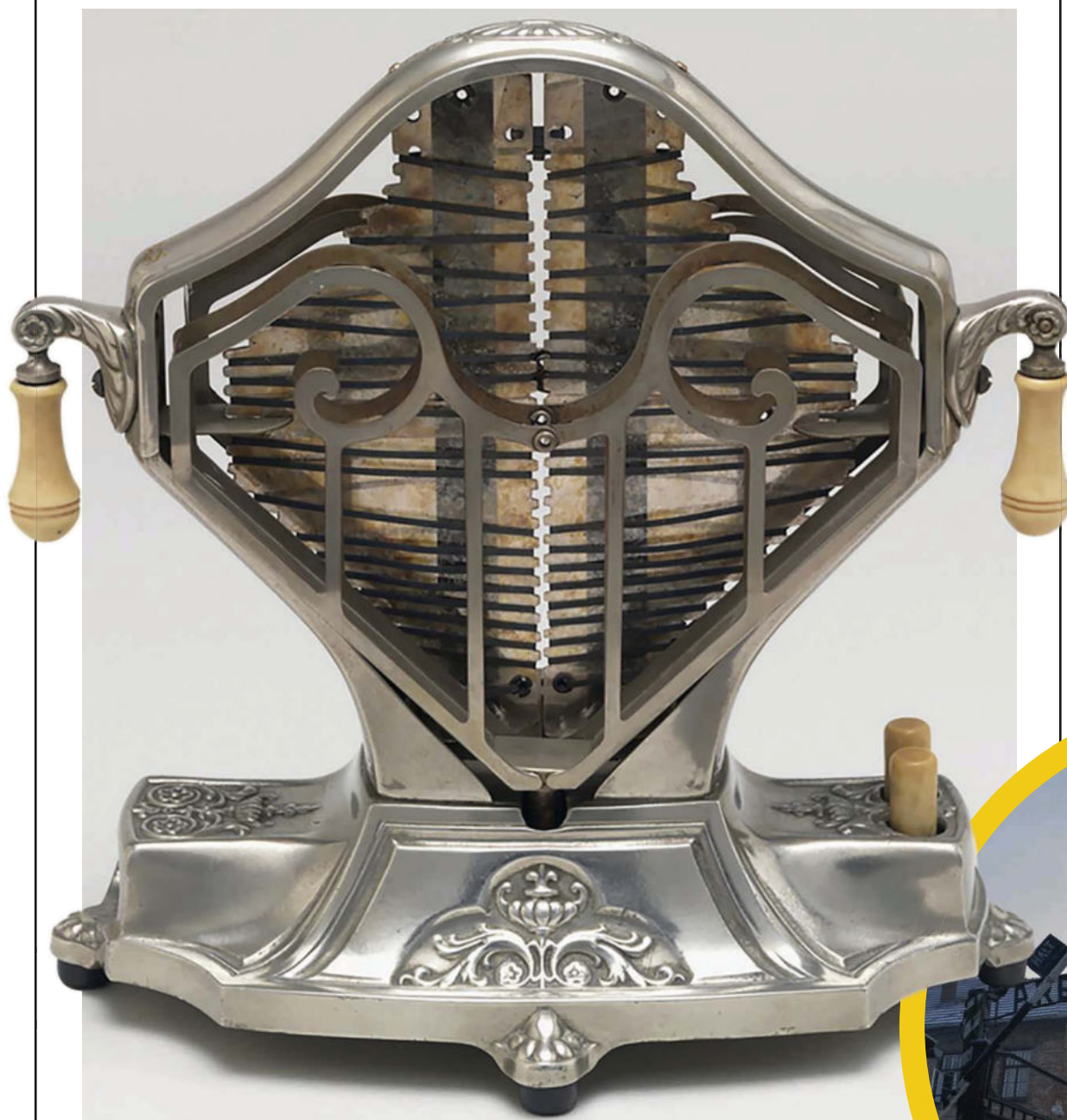
TIME PIECE

A look at everyday objects from the past

KEEP IT TOASTY

This 1929 toaster was the best thing since... well, you know

This so-called 'sweetheart toaster' didn't just heat bread – it turned the art of making the perfect toastie into a dinnertime show. Made in the late 1920s, this model was marketed as a gadget that could be brought out during meals and placed at the centre of the table, so diners could watch the bread odyssey unfold. It would be specifically aimed directly at women, so that its elaborate decoration and attractive shape hid the rather less attractive (or ladylike) mechanics behind the entire operation.



HISTORY IN COLOUR

Colourised photographs that bring the past to life

See more colourised pictures by
Marina Amaral [@marinamaral2](#)



GETTY/COLOURISED BY MARINA AMARAL

WOMEN FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS

In June 1913, suffragettes held a festival campaigning for their right to vote

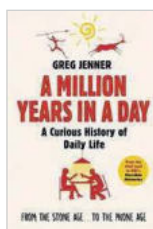
These suffragettes embark on a tour of London to advertise their summer meetings in Kensington. Emily Wilding Davison was due to attend, but she was killed by the King's horse at the Epsom Derby a few days into the festival.



YOUR HISTORY

Greg Jenner

Historian, author and self-described 'nerd' brushes up on his Latin, and explains why we should listen to the warning of *Back to the Future*



Greg's book, *A Million Years in a Day: A Curious History of Everyday Life from the Phone Age to the Stone Age* discovers the history behind our most basic – and essential – daily habits

Q If you could turn back the clock, which single event in history would you change?

Every *Back To The Future* fan knows about the perils of changing history, so I wouldn't touch it at all! The butterfly effect of creating unpredictable chaos is much too scary to go meddling into, even if the impulse to stop Hitler and prevent the Holocaust is incredibly strong. But if you forced me to make one change, I would play it very safe and go modern. I would save the gorgeously talented musician Jeff Buckley from drowning, so the world could enjoy more of his songs.

Q If you could meet any figure from history, who would it be?

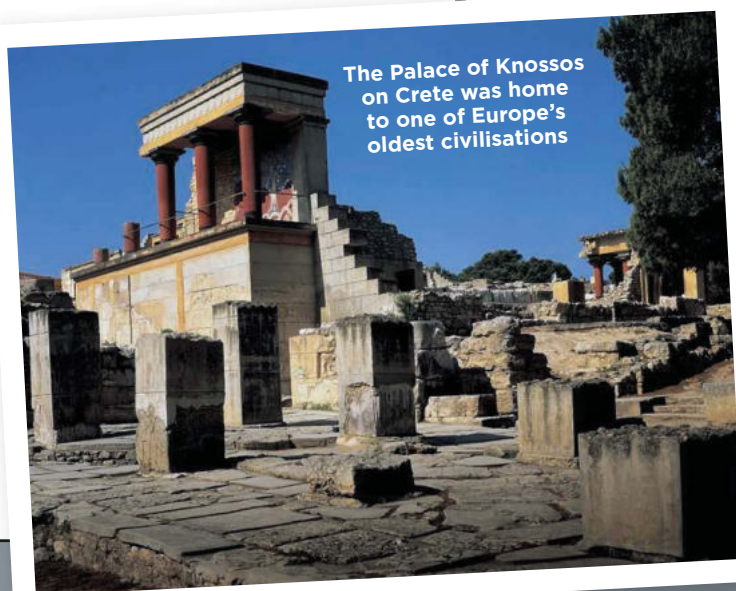
My all-time fave person is Leonardo Da Vinci, because he was a genius in so many fields and it's extraordinary to survey all of his accomplishments. But since my medieval Italian isn't up to much, I'd have to brush up on my Latin if I wanted to chat. Saying that, it would be an honour just to watch him at work on a painting, or on one of his inventions.

Q If you could visit any historical landmark in the world tomorrow, where would you go?

I would love to see the ruins of Minoan Knossos on the island of Crete. It's a famous Bronze Age site for its association with the legend of the Minotaur, but I would also be thrilled to see the sprawling domestic and palatial architecture up close. Being a social historian who has actually written about the history of washing, I'm particularly intrigued that it has the oldest bathtub in the world, plus amazing evidence for Bronze Age water-delivery and heating systems.

Q Who is your unsung history hero?

Hero isn't the right word, but I've spent many years researching Bill Richmond, the black American slave who became a celebrity boxer in Regency London. He is a truly fascinating man who was accepted into British high society despite his race, and whose life is a great window into the wider social issues of the Georgian era. There's a great biography by Luke G Williams called *Richmond Unchained*, which I highly recommend.



The Palace of Knossos on Crete was home to one of Europe's oldest civilisations

"I'm particularly intrigued that Knossos has the oldest bathtub in the world"

Man accused of murdering blonde wife

A MAN was charged in Casablanca, Morocco, last night, with murdering his blonde, 6ft. wife, a former Londoner.

The woman, May Georgina Nygaard, 28, was found dead in bed on Wednesday—stabbed with a steel spike.

Her mother, Mrs. Knox, lives at Highclere, Hampshire.

The dead woman's husband, Lief Nygaard, 31, is a wealthy Norwegian importer in Casablanca.

He and his wife had postponed a holiday earlier this year so that they could come to London later for the Coronation.

Nygaard, according to B.U.P. (American), told the police that he found his wife dead when he returned to their house early in the morning after visiting a chemist to buy some medicine to relieve his asthma.

He said £300 was missing from the house.

Nygaard says B.U.P. told the police that he had spent most of the night of the murder playing cards with Americans at an air base.

CROCODILE TEARS

MR. CHURCHILL, the Prime Minister, sends his "regret and sympathy."

Mr. Attlee, the Leader of the Opposition, sends his "sympathy and anxiety."

Mr. R. A. Butler, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, says he is "sorry to hear the news."

Alone among these cautious condolences, President Eisenhower extends "the thoughts of America to all the peoples of the Soviet Union, the men and women, boys and girls, in the villages, cities, farms and factories of their homeland" and expresses his wish for peace to "Russia's millions sharing our longing for a friendly world."

by
Cassandra

The President does not praise Marshal Stalin. Nor does he join the formal diplomatic sorrow. But the glycerine tears go on and the cardboard mourning and the sawdust grief is pumped out non-stop.

I am made of much more callous stuff. I have no regret for Mr. S. I have no sympathy for Mr. S.

And I am not in the slightest bit sorry to hear the latest news about Mr. S.

So granite-hearted am I about J. V. Stalin that I feel not the faintest twinge of grief over the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

'Downright Pleased'

There's uncouth indifference for you! But I'll tell you a funny thing. I met another man who's just as bad.

Not only did he not feel regret, sympathy and anxiety, but he was downright pleased.

He said that the news had made the day for him and that he proposed to have a drink on it. I was just pondering on man's inhumanity to man when I met someone else with a tremendous grin lighting up his face until it glowed with sheer warm pleasure.

He was positively gloating over the symptoms. This character was actually rejoicing over the desperate nature of Stalin's illness.

I Found No Grief

He was joined by another chap who remarked brutally that it was the best news he had had since petrol rationing ceased.

I must move in singularly hardened circles. Out of at least a hundred people who have mentioned the matter, not a single one expressed grief.

They weren't grateful to the great Russian for his immense kindnesses in Eastern Europe which are now sending refugees swooning with pure joy into Western Berlin at the rate of nearly 3,000 a day.

They weren't delighted with his wise and kindly role in Malaya and Korea and Indo-China. And

Continued on Back Page



STALIN IS DEAD —OFFICIAL

THE FINAL SCENES
—SEE BACK PAGE

Advertiser's Announcement

NEW
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FRY'S MILK PUNCH
MILK CHOCOLATE CARAMEL FUDGE

MILK CHOCOLATE
CARAMEL
FUDGE

and still only **4^D**

Young Mr. Wilding faces a camera



EIGHT weeks old and already making a public appearance—that's Michael, son of screen stars Elizabeth Taylor and Michael Wilding. The baby, born in California, U.S., is seen above with his twenty-one-year-old mother in the first picture of them together.

YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

Another timeless front page from the archives

THE DEATH OF JOSEPH STALIN IS CONFIRMED

The mass-murdering Soviet dictator's demise in 1953 brings an end to a brutal chapter in Russia

Such was his supreme, vice-like grip on his country, news of Joseph Stalin's death could hardly be believed by Russia's shocked population.

Many felt a genuine sense of loss, having been subjected to relentless propaganda that cast Stalin as the nation's benevolent hero. Huge crowds amassed in Moscow to see his body lying in state in the House of the Unions, with some even dying in a crush. Others – albeit privately, out of fear – welcomed the end of his reign of terror.

ABSURD END

For decades, Stalin oversaw a programme of industrialisation, drastically modernising and collectivising labour in Russia. At the same time, though, millions died under a brutal series of incarcerations and purges. Neighbour was encouraged to turn on neighbour and the NKVD, Stalin's secret police, carried out mass executions in increasingly paranoid attempts to stifle opposition. Amidst the ruthless repression, the population was still dirt-poor, not least from the economic devastation caused by wartime hostilities with Germany.

In stark contrast to the control he exerted on the Soviet Union, the days around Stalin's death verged on barely contained chaos in the Kremlin. The ruler clung on to life for four days following an apparent brain haemorrhage, but he remained lying on the floor for hours as his staff was too scared to rouse him.

Then few doctors could be found thanks to Stalin's own recent moves to purge Jewish doctors. With his eventual passing on 5 March 1953 – and with no clear successor – Politburo members began jockeying to take his place.

Nikita Khrushchev won the post and, over the next 11 years, set about the de-Stalinisation of the Soviet Union. Within just three years, he would deliver his 'secret speech' in which he denounced the repressive regime of the man formerly mythologised as the nation's benign father figure. 📍



NEWSFLASH
Russian soldiers are in shock at the radio announcement of the death of their leader



SOVIETS MOURN
Despite the suffering under Stalin, millions grieve and huge crowds gather for the funeral



A NEW BROOM
Nikita Khrushchev (second from left) moved the country away from Stalin, following a bitter struggle with political opponents

THIS MONTH IN... 1918

Anniversaries that have made history

SPANISH FLU SPREADS OVER THE WORLD

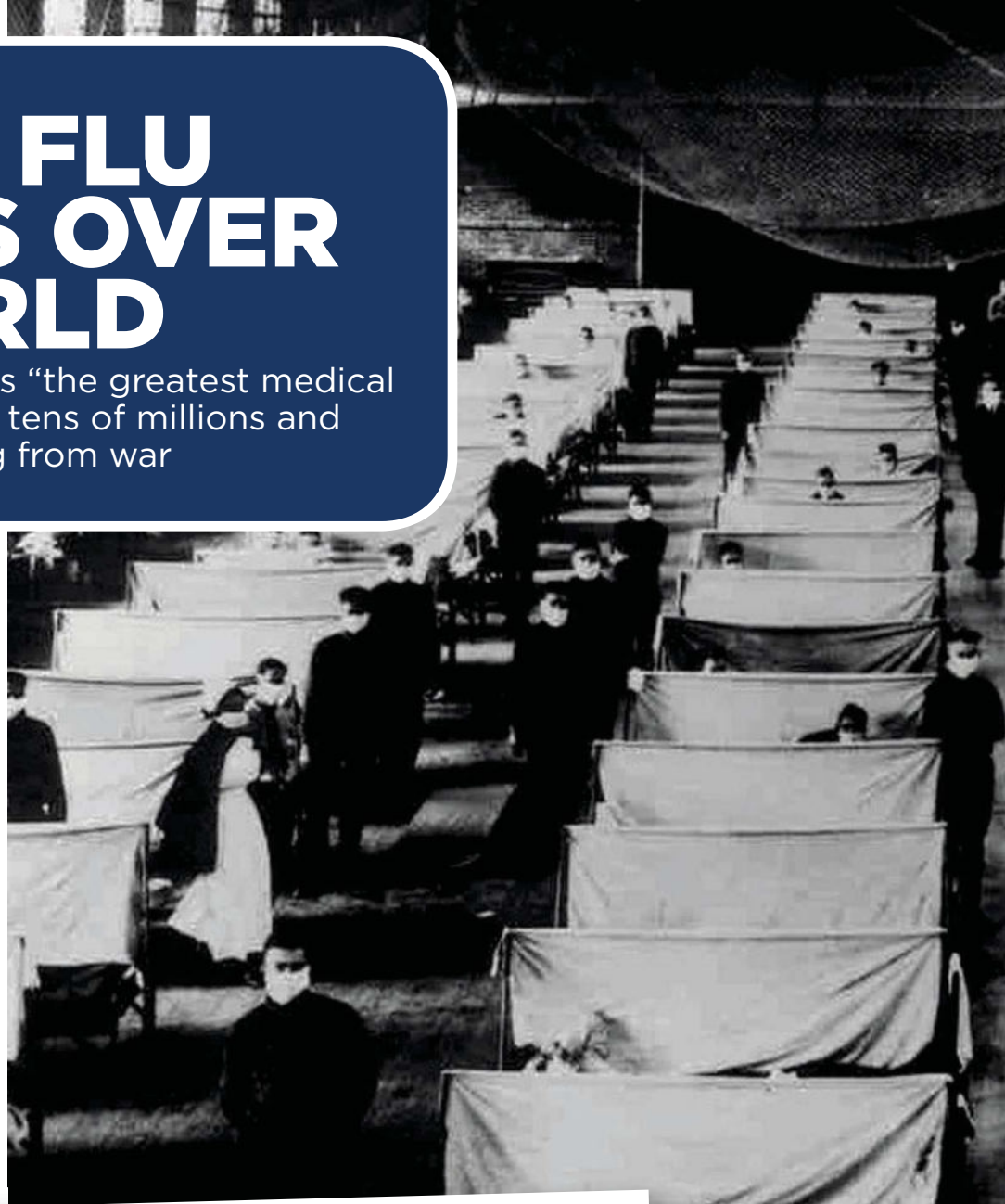
The pandemic, described as “the greatest medical holocaust in history”, killed tens of millions and terrified a world still reeling from war

The year 2018 marks the centenary of the deadly Spanish Flu outbreak, an influenza pandemic that killed an estimated 25 million people worldwide (although some estimates go as high as 50 million). As wartime propaganda had prevented the H1N1 influenza from being reported in fighting nations, it was neutral Spain that became associated with the disease – hence the nickname.

At first, the virus was confined to the squalid military hospitals of Europe, but it spread at a frightening rate as infected soldiers began to return home. Nearly every region in the world would be affected, save for a few small, lucky islands. Spanish Flu killed mainly young and healthy adults, but yet more frightening was the fact that there was no cure.

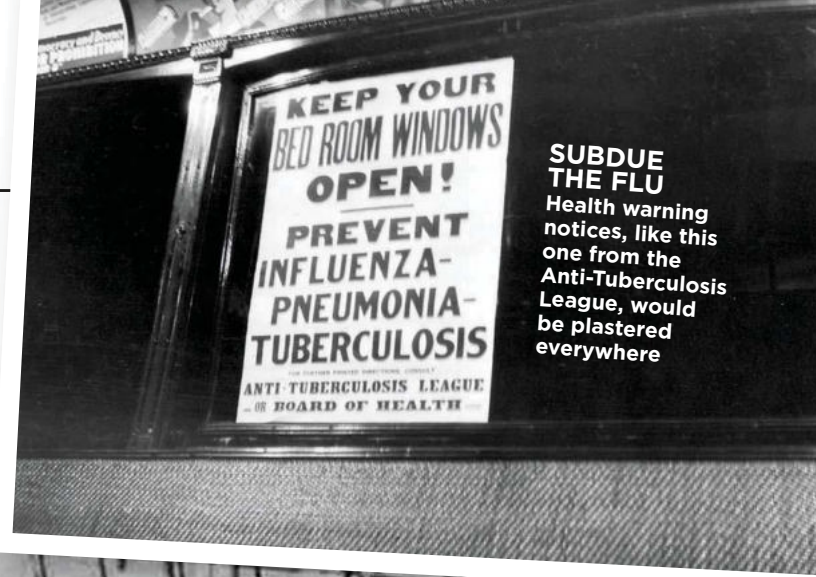
The symptoms included fatigue, fever and headache, and could quickly transform into fatal pneumonia. Hospitals became inundated, but there was nothing doctors and nurses could do to help dying patients. In some areas, quarantines were imposed, public places shut down and citizens ordered to wear protective face masks. Yet no one was safe. Among the infected was British Prime Minister, David Lloyd George.

By 1919, when the disease started to subside, more had died from Spanish Flu than ever did in the four years of World War I. 📍



PANDEMIC PANDEMONIUM

MAIN: Warehouses had to be used as makeshift hospital wards to keep the infected quarantined
LEFT: People wore gauze masks, but these didn't offer much protection



**SUBDUE
THE FLU**
Health warning
notices, like this
one from the
Anti-Tuberculosis
League, would
be plastered
everywhere



**“I had a little bird,
its name was Enza.
I opened the window,
and in-flu-enza”**

Children's nursery rhyme from 1918

TIME CAPSULE 1894

Snapshots of the world from one year in the past



SCAPEGOAT
Dreyfus was born to a Jewish family in Alsace, a French province near Germany



THE DREYFUS AFFAIR

In December 1894, French army Captain Alfred Dreyfus was sentenced to life imprisonment for allegedly communicating military secrets to the Germans. His trial and imprisonment caused public outcry, as many believed the case was rigged against the young Jewish officer, and the truth was covered up. The affair split French politics down the middle.

While Dreyfus languished for five years in the cruel prison conditions on Devil's Island, Guiana, prominent figures such as Emile Zola sought to clear his name, defeat his anti-Semitic enemies and reveal the real culprit. In 1899, Dreyfus was eventually brought back to France for retrial, and with public opinion on his side, he was pardoned.

Dreyfus defended himself in front of the military court. To every accusation, he replied with logic and proof of his innocence

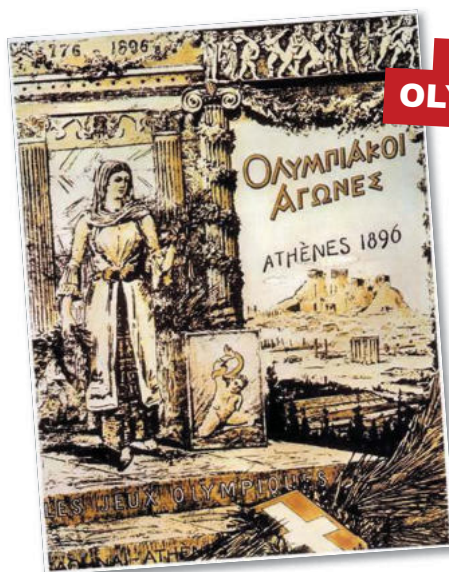
JOHN WESLEY HARDIN RELEASED FROM JAIL

Gunslinger John Wesley Hardin was released from jail in February, after serving 17 years for shooting dead a popular Texan sheriff. Originally one of the most feared gunslingers, his time in prison changed him. Inside, he read lots of books, wrote an autobiography, and once he was out he quickly qualified as a lawyer. He was killed a couple of years later by John Selman Sr, an outlaw-turned-policeman. Hardin has since been immortalized in songs by Bob Dylan and Johnny Cash.



BLACKPOOL TOWER OPENS

Blackpool's answer to the Eiffel Tower opened on 14 May, 1894. Around half the height of the Paris landmark, the buildings at the tower's base included the venue for a circus, which opened on the same day. Costing sixpence each for the circus, entrance to the base and lift to the top of the tower, it proved a popular attraction, with 3,000 people taking the journey up to the top. Later that year, the Blackpool Tower Ballroom opened.



INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE FOUNDED

The regulating office of the modern Olympic Games was set up on 23 June 1894 at the Sorbonne, in Paris. Its function was to conduct, promote and adjudicate the games. The brainchild of Pierre de Coubertin, a historian with a passion for the ancient Olympics, its first president was a Greek businessman. At his suggestion, in 1896, the first games were held in Athens.

ALSO IN 1894...

7 JANUARY

William Kennedy Dickson, an assistant to Thomas Edison, receives a patent for motion picture in the US, after making a film of a man sneezing.

12 MARCH

Joseph Biedenharn sells the first glass-bottled Coca-Cola in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Profits soared.

16 APRIL

Manchester City Football Club is formed in England, after local club Ardwick FC is renamed, in order to "represent the whole city".

MAY AND JUNE

In the US, railway workers for the Pullman Company go on strike. Protesting a pay cut, thousands of workers nationwide soon join in. Labor Day now commemorates this momentous event.

1 AUGUST

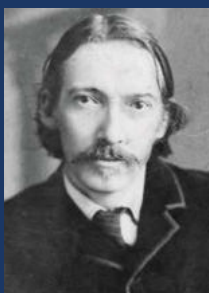
The first Sino-Japanese war is declared, as Qing dynasty China and Imperial Japan vie for influence over Korea.

18 DECEMBER

In South Australia, women are finally granted the right to vote on their 8th attempt, and are now permitted to run for office.

DIED: 3 DECEMBER ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

Author Robert Louis Stevenson dies aged just 44. After completing his best works, he settles on the Pacific island of Samoa. Calling himself "Tusitala" (Samoan for Story-Teller), he even gets involved with local politics. On his death, his Samoan friends take his body up a mountain to bury it in a spot overlooking the sea.



BORN: 23 JUNE EDWARD VIII

The future Edward VIII is born in the White Lodge in Richmond Park. Over 40 years later, he becomes king, but his reign lasts for less than a year. Forced to choose between the throne and marrying his American divorcée partner, Wallis Simpson, he chooses the latter. He abdicates on 11 December 1936.



GRAPHIC HISTORY

1789 THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

France's economy was in ruins. Extravagant spending by King Louis XVI and the American Revolutionary War led to rising prices and poverty. To make matters worse, several years of poor harvests and drought resulted in catastrophic food shortages, with a loaf of bread costing almost as much as a day's wages. When a universal land tax was proposed,

from which the more privileged classes would not be exempt, the aristocracy were outraged.

The Estates-General – an assembly representing the clergy, nobility and commoners – were called to a vote for the first time in over 175 years. But when hostility over the unfair voting system erupted, the commoners decided to take matters into their own hands.



21 JANUARY 1793: EXECUTION OF LOUIS XVI

Found guilty of high treason and crimes against the state, the king loses his head on the guillotine.

JUNE 1791: FLIGHT TO VARENNES

Louis, Queen Marie Antoinette and their family attempt to escape, but are arrested en route.

MAY 1789: THE ESTATES- GENERAL CONVENE

King Louis XVI summons the Estates-General to vote on an unpopular land tax.

14 JULY 1789: STORMING OF THE BASTILLE

Partisans storm the Bastille – a fortress prison in Paris – in order to seize weapons and gunpowder. This event signals the start of the Revolution.

JUNE 1789: TENNIS COURT OATH

The Third Estate (commoners) adopt the title of National Assembly and vow constitutional reform.

21 SEPTEMBER 1792: ABOLITION OF THE MONARCHY

Following the massacre of hundreds of supposed counter-revolutionaries in Paris, the monarchy is abolished.

4 AUGUST 1789: NOBLES SURRENDER THEIR PRIVILEGES

Members of the nobility flee France and the National Assembly abolishes feudalism.

TIMELINE

48%
Carpenter

24%
Goldsmith

60%
Mason

80%
Builder

THE PRICE OF BREAD

How much of their daily income did different French craftsmen have to spend on bread at the start of 1789?



27 JULY 1794: EXECUTION OF ROBESPIERRE

One of the leading forces behind the Terror, Maximilien Robespierre, is arrested and guillotined the following day.

9-10 NOVEMBER 1799: BONAPARTE'S COUP

Rushing back from his campaign in Egypt, General Napoleon Bonaparte overthrows the Directory and establishes himself as First Consul.

18 MAY 1804: NAPOLEON DECLARES HIMSELF EMPEROR

The First French Empire is created. In December, Napoleon crowns himself in a lavish ceremony at Notre Dame Cathedral, marking an end to the Revolution.

NOVEMBER 1795: THE DIRECTORY IS ESTABLISHED

Amid ongoing chaos, a new government is put in place, with weak executive powers. The Directory lasts four years, but is widely corrupt.

GUILLOTINE

- The guillotine was adopted in France, thanks to Joseph-Ignace Guillotin, as a humane method of execution
- Other names for the device included 'Sainte Guillotine' and the 'National Razor'
- There were 16,594 official death sentences during the Reign of Terror – but the number who died was much higher
- The last guillotine execution in France took place in 1977

1793-1794: REIGN OF TERROR

The Revolutionary government goes after anyone suspected of being enemies of the new Republic. Waves of thousands of executions follow.

MARIE ANTOINETTE

The Queen exuded extravagance, so was hated among revolutionaries. Still, she did not actually tell the peasantry to eat cake.

GEORGES DANTON

He vowed to either pull down or die beneath the guillotine – his fate was the latter.

LOUIS XVI

After his arrest during a doomed escape attempt, the King of France was given the name 'Citizen Louis Capet' and executed.

HEADS WILL ROLL

From peasants to a king, the guillotine cut through French society, with heads of many notable figures dropping into the basket

MADAME ROLAND

Initially a keen supporter of the Revolution, she was disgusted by the extreme actions of the Reign of Terror.

ANTOINE LAVOISIER

A nobleman and 'father of modern chemistry', he was charged with tax fraud and selling poor-quality tobacco.

HISTORY

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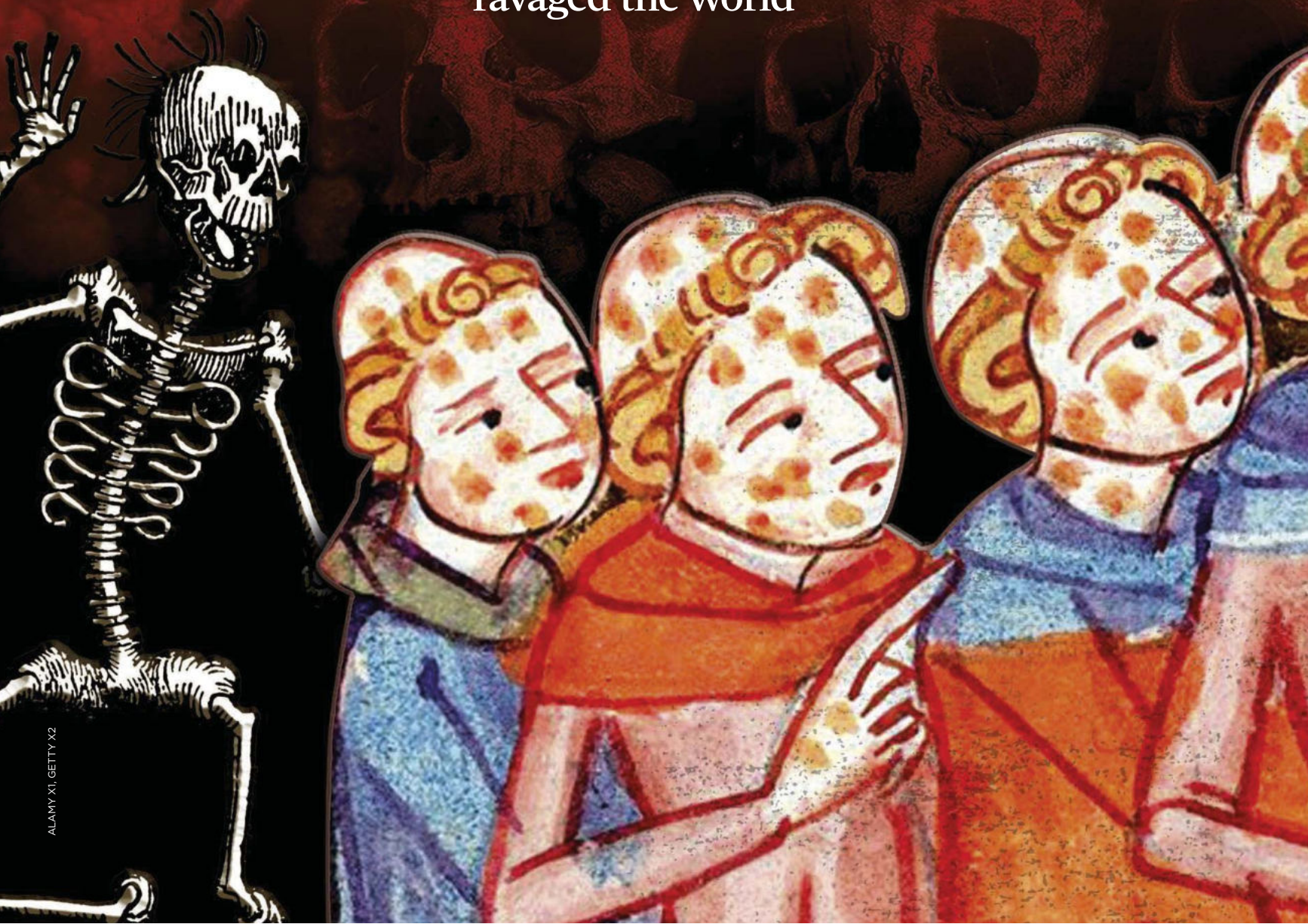


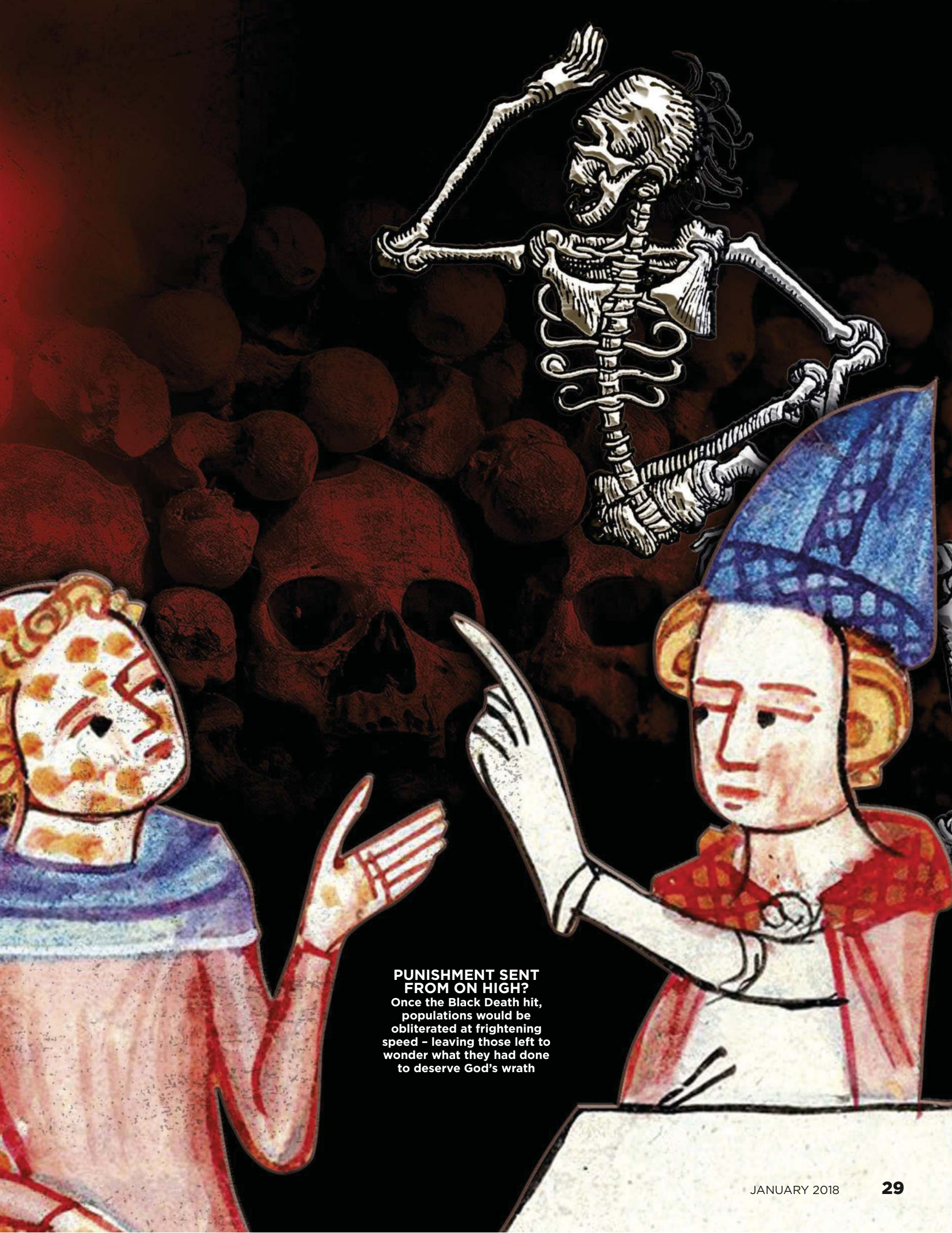
HISTORY
REVEALED Bringing the past to life

THE BLACK DEATH

THE BLACK DEATH

It left millions dead, communities ripped apart
and survivors learning to live with death.
Gavin Mortimer traces how the terrible pestilence
ravaged the world





**PUNISHMENT SENT
FROM ON HIGH?**

Once the Black Death hit, populations would be obliterated at frightening speed - leaving those left to wonder what they had done to deserve God's wrath

Boils were a sign of the Black Death and, despite various methods, doctors could do nothing for the afflicted



Two ships arrived at the small Dorset port of Melcombe on a June day in 1348. For the local people, their arrival was nothing out of the ordinary. They, like many in England, had heard rumours of a terrible pestilence ravaging Europe, but that did not mean it had to concern them. Such faraway places were beyond their imagination, separated by a sea most had never journeyed across. Instead, the people of Melcombe were more interested in preparing for the Feast of St John the Baptist, one of the oldest of the Christian festivals, marked with bonfires and an open-air feast of roasted meat, bread, cheese and beer.

STENCH OF DEATH

But when the two trading vessels, one of them registered in Bristol, docked at the Melcombe port, they contained more than just spices and wine. At least one of the sailors, a man from Gascony in the south-west of France, walked down the gangplank carrying the dreaded plague. Within two years, an estimated one-third of the 4.2 million people of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales had succumbed to what the survivors called the Black Death.

It is now believed that the mass-killer originated in the east of Kyrgyzstan, central Asia, in the late 1330s. Traders

unknowingly carried it along the Silk Road, either east into China or south towards India. As travel was slow at the time, it took time for the plague to spread initially, but once it struck it went to work quickly, killing the infected in a matter of days.

By 1346, word had reached Europe. People gossiped in markets and taverns, talking about painful boils as large as apples growing under arms and in the groins of the doomed. Then the talk went on to how the boils would turn black and the stench they emitted. The stench of imminent death.

Those in the midst of the suffering looked for someone to blame. In Crimea, where 85,000 people died in 1346, the Tartars pointed an accusing finger at the Christian merchants from Genoa. They besieged the Christians in their trading post on the coastal town of Kaffa and resorted to biological warfare, firing plague-riddled corpses over the walls with giant catapults. The Christians fled aboard their galleys, sailing across the (appropriately named) Black Sea into the Mediterranean. With them went the plague.

Sicily in 1347 was the first port of call for the Black Death in Europe. From there, the disease



This stained glass window in Canterbury Cathedral shows the burial procession of a plague victim

entered Italy, killing thousands and leaving millions asking God what they had done to deserve his wrath. A punishment for the sins of humankind was the common conclusion. The less-educated believed that God's fury had corrupted the atmosphere, sending an evil mist across the ocean. The more learned, such as the Medical Faculty of the University of Paris, published a paper at the instruction of King Philip VI, which claimed that a misalignment of the planets was the cause. The paper would be published in 1348, by which time the tentacles of the Black Death had reached out across France. The killer sickness had

DID YOU KNOW?

Among the scapegoats blamed, and often killed, for the Black Death were Jews, women suspected of witchcraft and cats (because of their association with sorcery). Ironically, the absence of cats prevented a check on the rat population.



"If any city should have been spared, it was Avignon, but some 62,000 died"

entered through the Mediterranean port of Marseille in September 1347, killing 56,000 of the city's inhabitants in four weeks. People were soon dropping dead along the coast in Montpellier, with one doctor noting: "Instantaneous death occurs when the aerial spirit escaping from the eyes of the sick man strikes the eyes of a healthy person standing near and looking at the sick."

The same abrupt, brutal, undignified death ravaged the cities of Carcassonne, Toulouse and Bordeaux. France then trembled at the fate of Avignon. The city had been the papal capital since 1309, the successor to Rome as the residency

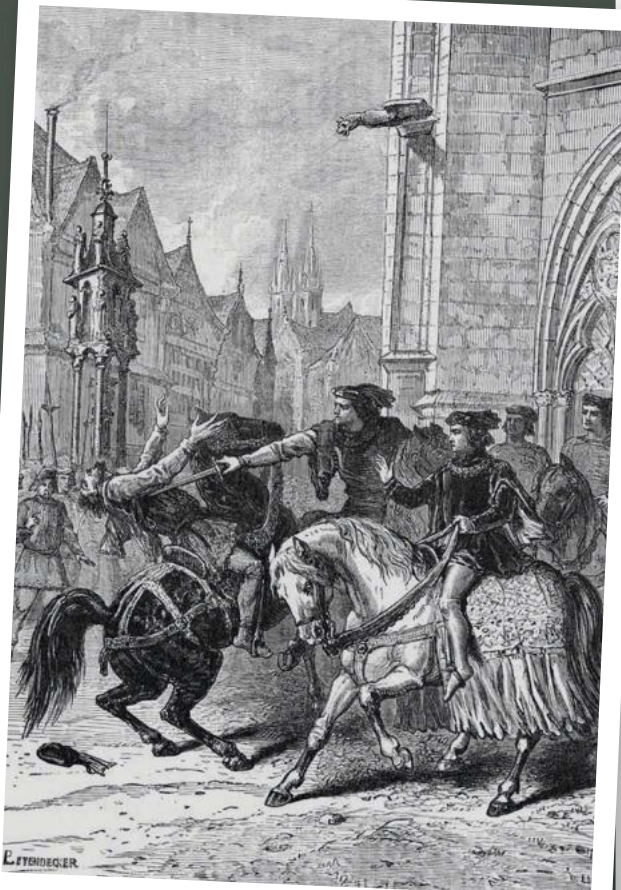
of the pope. If any city should have been spared, it was Avignon but that was not to be. Some 62,000 died in three months. So great was God's fury that not even canons and bishops escaped excruciating death.

The plague first reached Paris in the late spring of 1348 but it wasn't until the end of the year that the French capital felt its full destructive force. Around a quarter of the city's population of 200,000 died as the Black Death continued its journey north, through Amiens, Lille and up to the coast. "It is almost impossible to credit the mortality throughout the whole country," wrote

How the plague became revolting

Historians may differ on the extent to which the Black Death influenced the Peasants Revolt of 1381, but none dispute that it played a part in sparking the uprising. With one third of England's population killed by the plague, the survivors were in a strong position economically, able to demand higher wages and better working conditions from their masters. Those employers who refused would soon discover that their peasants had slipped away to offer their services to a more munificent lord of the manor. While the profits of landowners diminished, the purchasing power of rural workers increased by as much as 40 per cent in the following decades.

The authorities reacted by introducing clumsy legislation in an attempt to curtail the growing power of the peasants, which caused simmering resentment. But it was the imposition in 1377 of a poll tax to pay for the spiralling costs of the Hundred Years' War with France that ultimately led to the six-month revolt of 1381. London witnessed the brunt of the violence, although there was unrest across England before the king's troops quashed the rebellion. It had resulted in around 1,500 deaths. The hated poll tax, however, was scrapped.



Leader Wat Tyler is wounded as the Peasant's Revolt fails, but lives long enough to be beheaded

THE BLACK DEATH

Death rides through the people in this haunting fresco

"Like an invading army, the plague moved inland... the first major city struck down was Bristol"

Italian poet Boccaccio's description of the plague in Florence, which killed half the population, inspired this engraving

DID YOU KNOW?

The only ruling monarch to die of the Black Death was King Alfonso XI of Castile in Spain – although the King of England Edward III did lose his daughter, Princess Joan.



one man, Gilles Li Muisis. "Travellers, merchants, pilgrims and others who have passed through it declare that they have found cattle wandering without herdsmen in the fields, towns and waste lands; that they have seen barns and wine-cellars standing wide open, houses empty and few people to be found anywhere."

By June 1348, England had come to understand that something was wreaking havoc across the sea that separated them from the rest of the world. Hearsay travelled great distances, as second-hand stories passed from one merchant to another. Yet precise details remained scarce. No one knew, for example, that 100,000 people had died in Florence or that half of the population of Orvieto was now in the earth.

ON THE DECLINE

The English weren't that worried, though. Possessed of a more phlegmatic and less superstitious temperament than Latin Europe, they believed themselves innately superior to the continent. Victory over the French at the Battle of Crécy in 1346 had led to the seizure of Calais the following year and yet the confidence was illusory.

Europe had been on the decline for decades, with the effects being felt even in England. Perhaps not as severely as in

Italy, France or Spain, but nonetheless the economy stagnated and people became more indigent than they had been for years. This was in marked contrast to the previous two centuries, a period of relative calm in western Europe, in which work replaced war as the main occupation for young men. The continent enjoyed an economic boom and the population rocketed, but in the second-half of the 13th century, the good times came to an end. A change in climate devastated harvests, the heavy rain and plummeting temperatures continuing into the following century. There was no longer enough food for the overcrowded continent and the poor starved as the recession tightened its grip.

While England wasn't as fragile as some of its European neighbours, the gap between the rich and the poor nonetheless widened. An increasing number of the down-and-out moved to towns and cities in search of work, which only added to the overcrowding in the three biggest cities in the country, London, Norwich and York.

Exactly what day the Black Death came to the British Isles isn't recorded, neither is the name of the sailor nor his ship, but it arrived and soon, like an invading army, the plague moved inland from its landing zone in Melcombe. The first major city struck down was Bristol. "There died, suddenly overwhelmed by death, almost the whole strength of the town," recorded the 14th-century English chronicler, Henry Knighton. "Few were sick more than three days, or two days, or even half a day."

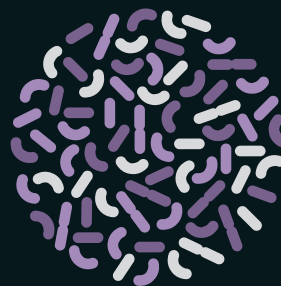
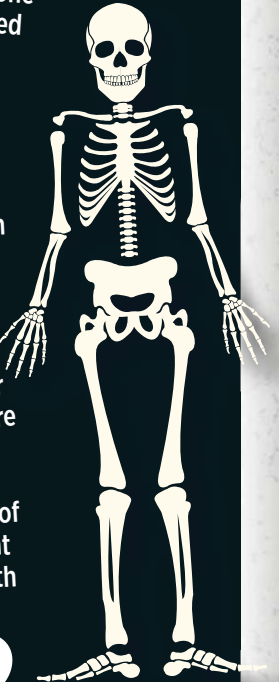
Knighton may have exaggerated, but Bristol lost around 40 per cent of its 10,000 inhabitants and then, in search of fresh victims, the Black Death turned east, towards Gloucester. Forewarned about the devastation that had befallen Bristol, the town council

BLACK DEATH FACTS



It is estimated that one third of all Scots died from the plague

In 2013, construction workers digging tunnels for London's Crossrail train unearthed 25 skeletons under Charterhouse Square in Clerkenwell. Subsequent DNA revealed evidence of the bacterium that caused Black Death



Given the right temperatures, the bacteria that causes the plagues can 'hibernate' for up to 6 months



One written report claimed that it was believed those who cleared sewage were immune as their bodies were used to toxic atmospheres



Few people recover from pneumonic plague, with death 95-100% certain within 72 hours



For a bubonic plague epidemic to erupt, the temperature must be between 15-20°C, with a humidity of 90-95%. A humidity of under 70% kills the plague



The plague arrived in Scandinavia from England and Magnus IV of Sweden issued a declaration to his subjects advising them to walk to church in bare feet to avoid the plague. It didn't help



TOP OF THE POX

If only the Black Death was the sole example of the world falling prey to the ravages of a mass-killer pestilence. In fact, the disease death-toll over the centuries has been devastating

PLAGUE OF JUSTINIAN (AD 541-542)

► The terrible twin of the Black Death, the Justinian plague swept across the world in the sixth century, killing an estimated 30 to 50 million people in Asia, Africa and Europe. Scientists recently confirmed the two pandemics were caused by the same bacterium, *Yersinia pestis*.

SPANISH INFLUENZA (1918-20)

▼ The influenza pandemic of a century ago ravaged a world already enfeebled by four years of war. Dubbed 'Spanish Flu' because that country's media was the first to report it in detail, the virus was unusually aggressive and claimed tens of millions of victims among World War I soldiers and civilians alike (see p20).



CHOLERA PANDEMIC (1852-60)

◀ Originating in India, the third of seven cholera outbreaks in the past 200 years was the deadliest, killing millions across Asia, Europe, North America and Africa. Around 1 million Russians and 23,000 Britons died from the disease transmitted by contaminated water.



THE ANTONINE PLAGUE (AD 165-180)

► Brought into the Roman Empire by soldiers returning from military campaign in the Near East, the plague killed an estimated five million, a mortality rate of 30 per cent. Although there is no conclusive proof, it's believed the disease was smallpox.



THE GREAT PLAGUE OF LONDON (1665-66)

► Overcrowding and poor sanitation contributed to the outbreak of bubonic plague in the spring of 1665. An estimated 100,000 Londoners died, 15 per cent of the city's population, with the flea-carrying black rats only defeated by the Great Fire the following year.





ABOVE: **The people of Tournai bury the dead in a mass grave**
 TOP RIGHT: **This iron cross was placed on the grave of a monk who fell victim to the Black Death**
 BOTTOM RIGHT: **Devices like this gold and silver pomander were filled with fragrant-smelling petals or herbs to keep the owner safe from foul air**

representative of Rochester's suffering in general. "Men and women carried their own children on their shoulders to the church and threw them into a common pit," wrote Dene. "From these pits such an appalling stench was given that scarcely anyone dared even to walk beside the cemeteries."

ROOTLESS PHANTOM

From the south of England, the Black Death headed north into Lincolnshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire and then Scotland. When it crossed into Wales, the poet Jeuan Gethin captured its horror in eloquent prose – shortly before he perished in the spring of 1349. "We see death coming in our midst like black smoke, a plague which cuts off the young, a rootless phantom which has no mercy for fair countenance," he wrote.

"Men and women carried their own children to the church and threw them into a common pit"

closed the gates to outsiders. Yet this applied to human outsiders. Black rats could still scurry along the banks of the Severn, or inside the barges, finding a way into Gloucester.

No one in England, or the rest of the world, had any inkling that rats were to blame for the spread of the plague. It is now known that 10 years earlier in central Asia, the bacterium *Yersinia pestis* entered the stomach of a flea, whose preferred host was a rodent (a marmot, jerboa or rat). The plague might never have left its little corner of remote Kyrgyzstan were it not for the large migration of rats in the late 1330s. The black rat was a tough and adventurous rodent, travelling long distances in search of food. They entered villages and towns, and the fleas infected traders, who then took the plague along the Silk Road and onto ships.

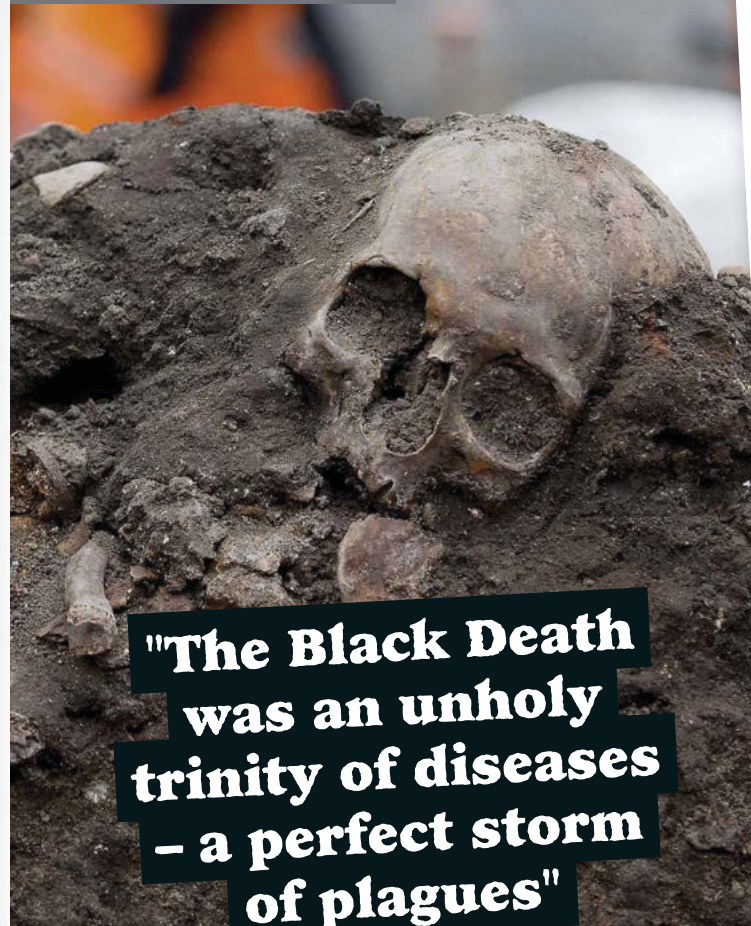
After Gloucester, it was Oxford's turn to be overrun. Many of the city's wealthier citizens had already fled to their country houses by the time the Black Death arrived. The poor, however, died in such numbers that there weren't enough healthy people to bury the bodies. Winchester was badly hit, the town of 8,000 losing roughly half of its inhabitants, so too, the Isle of Wight, while great swathes of Sussex and Kent were decimated. William Dene, a monk of Rochester, recorded that the city's bishop lost from his household four priests, five esquires, ten attendants, seven clerics and six pages. It was

"It is seething, terrible, wherever it may come, a head that gives pain and causes a loud cry, a burden carried under the arms, a painful angry knob, a white lump. It is the form of an apple, like the head of an onion, a small boil that spares no one... it is an ugly eruption that comes with unseemly haste. They are similar to the seeds of the black peas, broken fragments of brittle sea-coal and crowds precede the end."

On being bitten by an infected flea, it took on average six days for the first dark pustule to appear on the victim. Then came the swelling of the lymph nodes as the body fought the infection, called buboes (hence 'bubonic' plague), and then the subcutaneous haemorrhaging turned the skin a vivid purple.

People would resort to desperate and futile preventative measures in the hope of protecting themselves. Believing the plague was borne by an ill wind, some would not leave their home unless they had in their hands a posy of flowers, a smelling apple or a pomander full of nice fragrances. Inside their houses, some burned wood such as juniper, ash or vine, while others sprinkled vinegar and rose water on the floors.

Hundreds of skeletons have been discovered while digging out a new rail station in London



"The Black Death was an unholy trinity of diseases – a perfect storm of plagues"



ABOVE:
The cemetery for Black Death victims in East Smithfield, excavated in the 1980s RIGHT:
A manuscript depicting blood-letting, a common 'cure' for the plague



Plague hunting

How many died and how many survived are questions with no conclusive answers because few records remain. In England, there was no general census between the Domesday Book of 1086 and the poll tax returns of 1377. Historians diverge, therefore, on numbers, with estimates of England's pre-plague population ranging from 3.7 to 5 million, and the mortality rate varying from 23 per cent to a staggering 45 per cent. But the general consensus is that a plausible figure is one third of England's

4.2 million population died. What historians are agreed on is that the plague entered through Melcombe (*below*). Not only did a monk of Wiltshire, who survived, blame the Dorset port but so did *A Fourteenth-Century Chronicle from the Grey Friars at Lynn*. Describing the arrival of two vessels in June 1348, the chronicler wrote: "One of the sailors had brought with him from Gascony the seeds of the terrible pestilence and, through him, the men of that town of Melcombe were the first in England to be infected."

< Exercise and amorous relations were considered a risk, given that one would breathe more air, so the pace of life slowed and people did their best not to perspire. As for diet, special recipes were devised for beating the plague: figs for breakfast, eggs dipped in vinegar, rhubarb and muskroot, meat that was roasted not boiled. The list went on. None of them worked.

In 1349, the noted Arab physician Ibn Khatimah published his seven tips for avoiding the pestilence. Included in the methods he advocated was sleeping in a room open to the north wind, as it was cooler and healthier than the humid southerly wind, and regular evacuation of the bowels.

For those who did wake up under the weather, or reached a hand with a gathering sense of dread under an armpit and felt a lump, there was – at least for those with the means – a proscribed course of treatment. First, the patient drank a sweet-tasting potion, "in particular a blend of apple-syrup, lemon, rose-water and peppermint". Then came the bleeding, which doctors



Unknown locals carved graffiti on the walls of St Mary's Church in Ashwell, lamenting the "fierce violent" plagues

Great Plague of London

The plague returned intermittently to Britain several times after the Black Death, with particularly virulent attacks in 1563 and 1603, when nearly a quarter of London's population died in both instances. The plague influenced the works of William Shakespeare, with the reference in *King Lear* to: "A boil, plague-sore, an embossed carbuncle In my corrupted blood", one of several mentions of the plague in his plays.

In 1665, nearly half a century after Shakespeare's death, Britain was visited once more by the plague with London at its epicentre. Unlike the Black Death of three centuries earlier, what became known as the Great Plague of London resonates far more because of the sophisticated first-hand accounts. Erudite men, notably the diarist Samuel Pepys, wrote vividly of the plague's

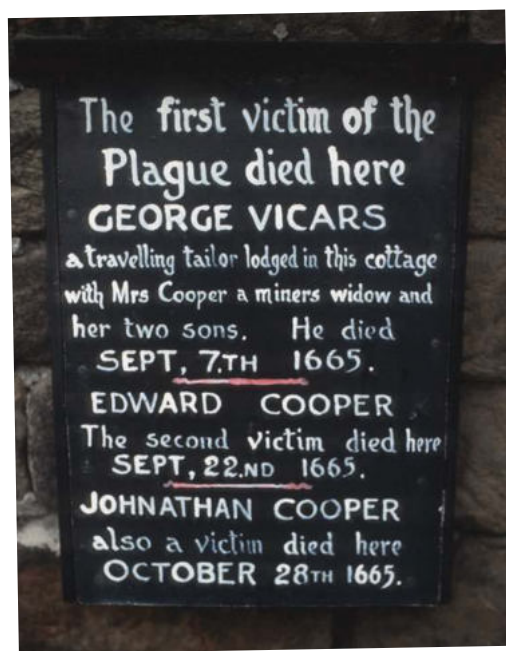
progress. On 7 June 1665, he wrote in his diary of seeing in Drury Lane, "two or three houses marked with a red cross upon the doors, and 'Lord have mercy upon us' writ there - which was a sad sight to me, being the first of that kind that to my remembrance I ever saw".

The words were a warning that the house was infected with the plague, the bubonic variety, spread by flea-carrying rats. On 31 July, Pepys wrote that the plague "grows mightily upon us" and at the end of August, he recorded: "Thus this month ends, with great sadness upon the public through the greatness [*sic*] of the plague, everywhere through the Kingdom almost. Every day sadder and sadder news of its increase."

Past experience of plagues, however, meant the disease

didn't ravage Britain as a whole. Infected houses were quarantined and the rest of the country suspended trade with London. The measures worked and the plague, the last serious outbreak in Britain, was confined mainly to the capital.

Supposedly beginning with George Vicars (left), the Great Plague of 1665 killed 100,000 people in London



believed would draw the plague from the body. The blood drained would be black and Ibn Khatimah recommended withdrawing no more than five pounds. He and many doctors cut open the boils and cauterised them with a variety of substances, including egg yolk.

WRETCHED YEAR

What none of the physicians understood was why many people died without developing boils. The plague to them was the plague, and medical science was still centuries away from understanding that the Black Death was an unholy trinity of diseases: bubonic, pulmonary and septicaemic. In short, the Black Death was a perfect storm of plagues. The boils signified Bubonic plague; coughing blood was the calling card of pulmonary (also called pneumonic) plague - the most infectious as it was airborne - and septicaemic was often the quickest to kill, the victim dying before the boils had time to erupt.

For the 70,000 inhabitants of London, pulmonary plague arrived first, in the autumn of 1348, and it wasn't until the warmer weather of late spring that the bubonic strain started to strike. Wealth, status, age, sex - the disease made no distinction, carrying off the dirt poor and the filthy rich, cutting a swathe through the trade guilds and killing the Archbishop of Canterbury. Nobody knows for certain how many died in London. Somewhere between 25,000 and 40,000. The plague's peak was the summer of 1349 but Londoners were still dying the following year.

And then it vanished, and the city, like the country, like the continent, began the monumental task of rebuilding. The Black Death left an indelible mark, not just in the overflowing cemeteries and underpopulated villages, but in the minds of those who survived. As a parishioner carved into the wall of St Mary's Church in Ashwell, Hertfordshire, 1349 had been a "wretched, terrible, destructive year".

GET HOOKED

READ

The Black Death by Philip Ziegler (originally published 1969) is still regarded as one of the more fascinating overviews of how the plague spread from Asia to Europe.

The Black Death: an Intimate History by John Hatcher (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 2008) uses scrupulously researched contemporary sources and educated speculation to recreate life in a Suffolk parish as they endure the pestilence.

DID YOU KNOW?

The last outbreak of bubonic plague in Britain was in Glasgow in 1900, when 16 people died.

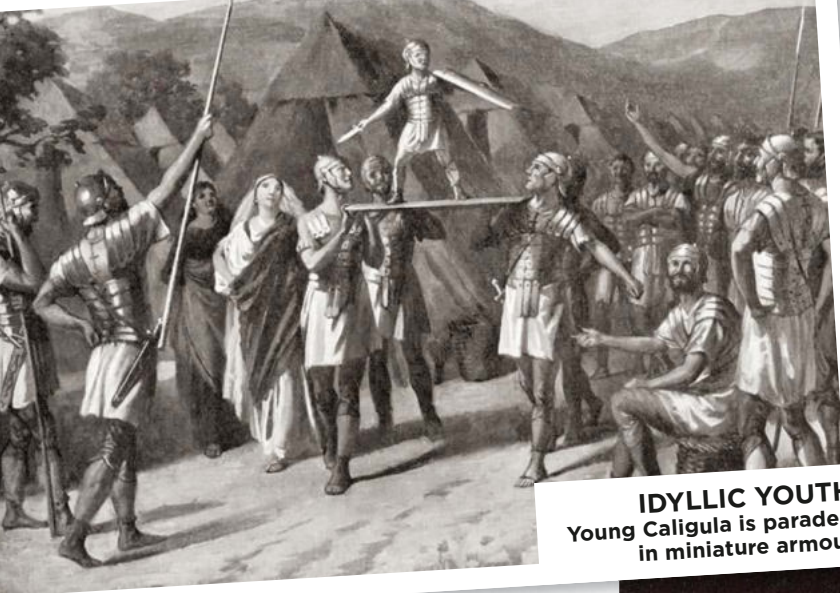
CALIGULA: WAS HIS TYRANNY ALL IN THE MIND?

The story of Caligula has long been about the corruption of absolute power, murderous madness and sexual perversion, but **Philip Matyszak** reveals how the Roman emperor's reputation is far more seductive than the mundane reality



ALL BAD?

Gaius Julius Caesar (known as Caligula), Roman emperor from AD 37 to AD 41, has a legendarily despicable reputation. But is it deserved?



IDYLLIC YOUTH
Young Caligula is paraded
in miniature armour

SHAKY START
Childhood comes to
an abrupt end when
Caligula's father
dies, triggering a
struggle for the
imperial succession
of Rome

The Roman Empire produced some spectacularly bad emperors over the centuries. There was the brutally egotistical Commodus, who moonlighted as a gladiator in the Colosseum, and the bizarre Elagabalus, who dressed in women's clothing and got about the Palatine in chariots pulled by slave girls. Then there was Nero, whose orgies and tyrannical excesses were notorious.

No list of Rome's worst emperors would be complete, though, without Caligula. Everybody knows, after all, of how he threw obscene orgies, had sex with his sisters and was an ingenious and sadistic torturer. And, of course, he was stark, raving mad. Yet most of what we think we know about Caligula comes from accounts (both ancient and modern) based on the authors' highly active imaginations, rather than historical record.

YOUNG CELEBRITY

It is true that few lives have come close to the absolute heights and profound depths Caligula experienced in just 25 years. He was the youngest son of Germanicus, the rising star of the imperial dynasty, and part of a revered family, which combined celebrity glamour with monarchy and a cult of personality.

As the youngest in this Roman pantheon, he was the 'chick', the darling, the mascot. The name Caligula, or 'Little Boots', came from adoring soldiers to whom Germanicus liked to display his son dressed as a miniature Roman legionary. Uncomfortable with the moniker, Caligula later insisted on the given name he shared with a famous ancestor – Gaius Julius Caesar. (Many historians today use Gaius rather than the sensational alter ego of Caligula.)

Caligula's childhood idyll ended when his father apparently contracted a lethal dose of malaria in Egypt and died in the province of Syria, certain to the last that he had been poisoned. Almost the entire population of Rome turned out to receive his ashes, but significantly the emperor Tiberius was not present.

Germanicus's sons were potential successors to the emperor, making the family a threat to Tiberius's second-in-command, the sinister Sejanus, who had ambitions of his own. By now,



Caligula's mental collapse left him bed-ridden in delirium while Rome prayed for his recovery

Tiberius was elderly and had withdrawn to his villa in Capri, leaving much of the governance of Rome to Sejanus.

Yet Sejanus could do nothing against his rivals while their protector Livia, the mother of Tiberius, was still alive. It was only after her death in AD 29 that Caligula's mother and his two older brothers were arrested. The mother was flogged so badly that she lost an eye, and died soon afterwards (or was killed) in exile. Caligula's brother Drusus was deliberately starved in his imprisonment until, in his hunger, he tried to eat the stuffing from his

mattress. The other brother avoided a similar fate by committing suicide.

Before Sejanus could move against Caligula, however, he himself was executed when Tiberius awoke to the treachery of his scheming subordinate. Caligula, the last surviving son of Germanicus, was appointed the imperial heir and ordered to live with Tiberius in Capri.

The next six years were stressful beyond belief for Caligula. The biographer Suetonius tells us that he was scrutinised day and night for any signs of disaffection or hints of disloyalty, deliberate or unintentional. Let's not forget that



CONFIRMING CALIGULA'S ROTTEN REPUTATION

Sometimes we only hear what we want to hear. When people start with an idea they want to be true, they may downplay or reinterpret anything that disagrees with it and enthusiastically accept anything that helps confirm it. (Anyone who has been wildly in love and later disillusioned will know this phenomenon.) Until the concept was given its more scientific-sounding name – confirmation bias – this tendency would be described by the cynical saying, "Give a dog a good name and bless it, give a dog a bad name and hang it".

Thanks to Suetonius, confirmation bias has shaped our view of Caligula. Why did he commit his atrocities? Because he was mad. How do we know he was mad? Because he committed atrocities. Once we break confirmation bias, other motives become apparent. But then we have a mundane political power struggle, when we secretly prefer the delicious horror of an empire (safely distant from us) ruled by a sex-crazed, murderous tyrant.

this was an era when a senator could be put to death for going to the toilet while wearing a ring with the emperor's portrait.

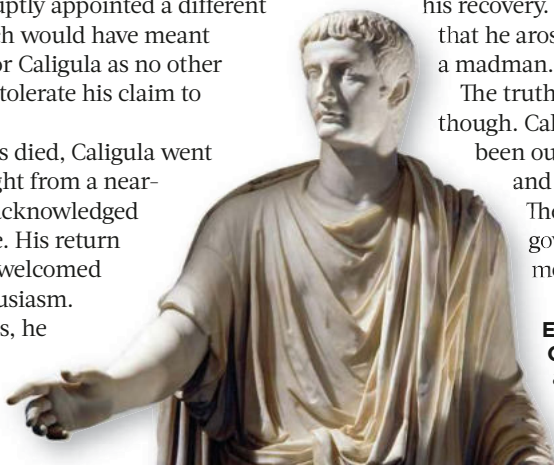
FROM MASTER TO MADMAN

Caligula went to bed every night wondering if he would be woken in the small hours and taken to the cells for summary execution. Even as Tiberius lay dying, the capricious emperor could have abruptly appointed a different successor, which would have meant certain death for Caligula as no other emperor could tolerate his claim to the empire.

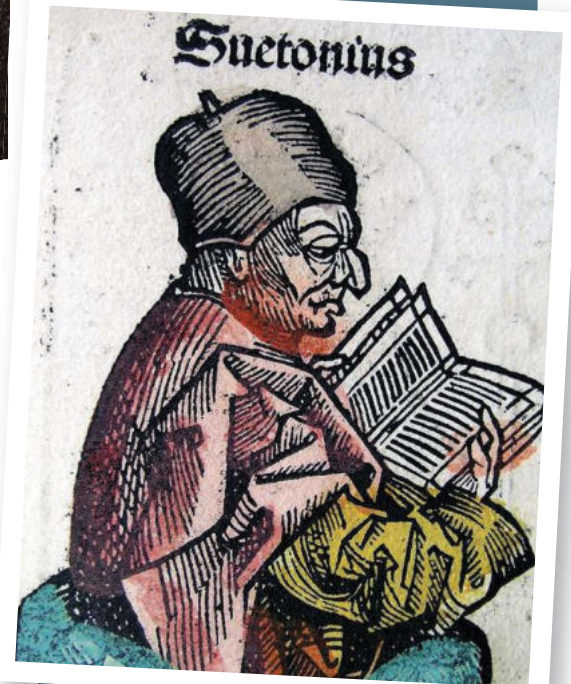
Once Tiberius died, Caligula went literally overnight from a near-hostage to the acknowledged master of Rome. His return to the city was welcomed with wild enthusiasm. Soon afterwards, he

had a nervous breakdown. In an age familiar with post-traumatic stress we should perhaps expect this. As veteran soldiers will testify, the true psychological impact is felt only upon returning to normalcy and safety, then experiencing utter alienation from others who have not shared the same experience. Caligula's collapse left him bed-ridden in delirium while an anxious Rome prayed for his recovery. Ancient biographers report that he arose from his sickbed as a madman.

The truth proved to be worse though. Caligula, ruler of Rome, had been out of action for weeks – and nothing had happened. The provinces had been governed as usual, the senate met and passed decrees and the



Emperor Tiberius kept Caligula on a knife edge awaiting succession



FALSE WITNESS

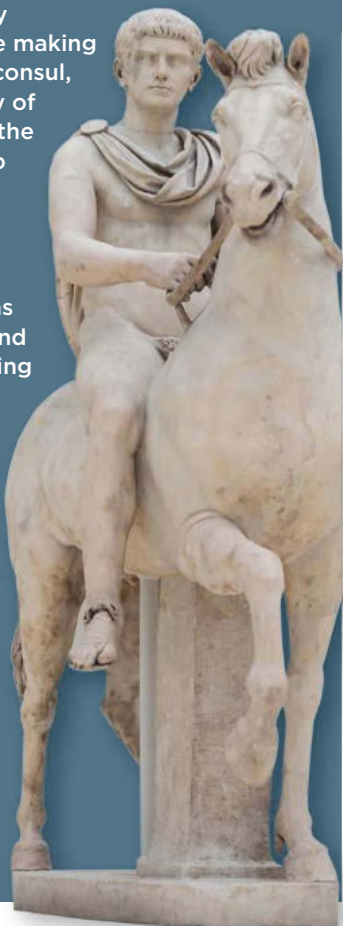
Historian Suetonius cemented Caligula's reputation as mentally unstable, but based his account on 75-year-old propaganda

DID CALIGULA REALLY MAKE HIS HORSE A CONSUL?

Caligula had a favourite racehorse named Incitatus (The Swift). He gave the animal regular treats and a stable made from marble. Soldiers were ordered to hush the neighbourhood when the horse was sleeping. "It is even said he planned to make the horse a consul." All the above comes from Suetonius. When even he repeats something as hearsay, it is time to be very wary.

Instead, the consul story has become part of the Caligula myth. In Robert Graves's novel *I, Claudius*, Caligula makes the horse a senator, with the intention of making it a consul later, while in Lloyd C Douglas's book *The Robe* he actually does the deed. In reality, he did not. Perhaps he publicly quipped that even his horse would make a better consul than the present incumbents, and the senate propaganda machine took it from there. It is also possible that Caligula did seriously contemplate making his horse a consul, but as a way of demeaning the senate. Nero later tried to demean senators by making them fight as gladiators and by prostituting their wives.

EQUINE OFFICIAL
Caligula was nuts for his nag, but didn't in fact put it in office



praetorian prefects administered justice. The empire had gone peacefully about its business. The way that the imperial system functioned meant that Rome did not actually need a hands-on ruler.

Caligula was not really necessary and, to someone with his upbringing, 'unnecessary' meant 'disposable'. As a headstrong young man with a survival instinct ingrained across every fibre of his being, Caligula set about rectifying what he saw as an unacceptable situation. He would make himself necessary, and make the senate and the people of Rome dependant on his rule. It ended up being a flawed and fatal strategy, but it followed logically from Caligula's life experience to date.

SENATE STRANGLEHOLD

He immediately jettisoned the example of his immediate predecessors, who had carefully pretended to work through the senate, even while slaughtering individual senators. By explicitly taking direct control of the empire, Caligula was not only ahead of his time, he was declaring war on the senate. Therefore, Caligula's reign is not about the antics of a young madman, but the story of a political struggle for supremacy – a story told by the

The senate twisted Caligula's every action. Mud was hurled with gleeful disregard for the truth

victors, for whom libel laws were non-existent and the truth optional.

The last ruler of Rome to openly place himself above the senate was Caligula's namesake, Gaius Julius Caesar, and the Ides of March shows what they thought of that. Nevertheless, Caligula elevated himself above the senate by declaring himself a God. Later, that was less unusual – the emperor Domitian entitled himself Master and God – but at the time this seemed blasphemous and bizarre.

Even in Caligula's time, it was not unprecedented. In the Greek east, rulers were almost routinely deified, and the divine status of the Egyptian pharaohs had been adopted by their Macedonian successors. Caligula awarding himself the same status in Rome was only insane in the sense that it was a political gambit certain to fail.

Caligula the God had the support of the people and the army, but was a political neophyte with a personality totally unsuited to fighting a senate of ruthless fixers hardened by savage, often fatal, political battles. Senators had connections, clients and a hidden grip on the levers of power. Both sides in this struggle used any and all means at their disposal, but it was Caligula who was outmatched.



TRASH TALK
Senators used gossip and propaganda to brief against the ambitious young emperor

One of the weapons of the senate was propaganda. Here, a comment by the great orator Cicero is revealing: "I call this man a gladiator, not as the usual rhetorical insult, but because he really was one." In other verbal attacks, Cicero labelled opponents as arsonists, patricides (even those with living fathers!), pathics, coprophiliacs and murderers, and even claimed – with no proof whatsoever – that one man killed children to use their organs in necromantic rites. In Roman political invective, mud was hurled with gleeful disregard for the truth, just to see what would stick.

As for Caligula, the senate seized upon his claim of divinity and interpreted it as madness. They twisted every action of an emperor who was in any case young, headstrong and thoughtless, and simply invented other cases. Even the fact that his wife loved him was seen as evidence of his madness (he allegedly threatened to torture her to discover why). Caligula was also a loving father, but apparently only because his child shared his sadistic inclinations, which excused Caligula's eventual murderers bashing the toddler's brains out against a wall.

MANIACAL MYTHS

Staying with family relations, the biographer Suetonius reports that Caligula enjoyed sex



SCRUTINISING SUETONIUS

"In reckless extravagance he was more ingenious than all the prodigals of history... he would bathe in hot or cold perfumed oils, drink costly pearls dissolved in vinegar, and give his guests loaves and meat made from gold, declaring that a man could be either a miser or Caesar. He gave the people large sums of money on successive days by throwing it from the roof of the basilica Julia. He also built ships... with sterns set with gems, multi-coloured sails, huge baths, colonnades, and banquet-halls" (Suetonius, *Caligula*, chapter 37).

We know that the ships existed, because they were found at Lake Nemi, so although Suetonius may have

exaggerated, it was not by much. The ships, destroyed by Allied bombers in World War II, were gorgeous. Yet claims that Caligula bankrupted the empire are wrong. As Suetonius earlier pointed out: "Caligula used openly to deplore the state of his times, because his era had been marked by no public disaster... and it was threatened with oblivion because of its prosperity."

"No public disasters" included no wars, and even a minor war cost more than a major mansion. Rather than being bankrupt, the empire was easily able to afford the invasion of Britain that Caligula had planned and his successor Claudius executed.

SEX SLURS

Unsavoury rumours abounded about Caligula and his sisters Julia, Drusilla and Agrippina

with his sisters during banquets while appalled guests looked on. Yet Suetonius wrote a century later, when the legend of Caligula as a lunatic had been well established. By then, some believed he had become a sex-crazed madman because his wife had overdosed him with a love potion. Since much of the detail of Caligula's mental state comes from Suetonius, the claim of incest merits further examination.

The historian Tacitus was born 15 years after Caligula died. Unlike Suetonius, he scrupulously reports allegations as just that – allegations rather than fact – and he does not mention any such dinner party entertainment. Nor does the philosopher – and senator – Seneca, who actually knew Caligula. Both writers do not shy away from the topic, but mention Caligula's sister Agrippina in connection with incest only with her uncle and son, not her brother.

As to Caligula's murderous side, there is a definite shortage of victims. While Suetonius is fond of saying the emperor had people



BOAT BLING

One of two ancient pleasure barges found in Lake Nemi in Lazio (above), matching Suetonius's account of Caligula's lavish ships, adorned with jewels and items like this bronze Medusa head (right)



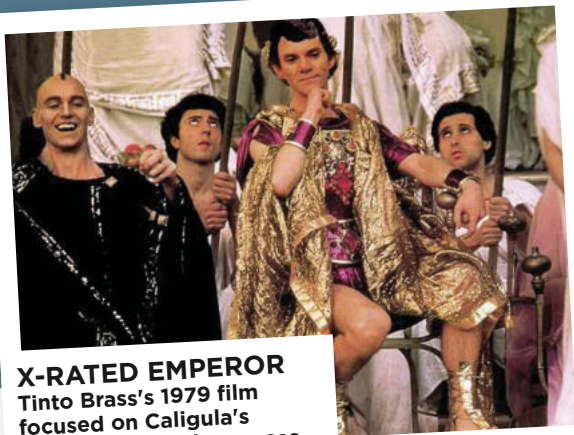
**VIOLENT END**

Caligula lies murdered by the Praetorian Guard, as Claudius cowers behind a curtain, AD 41

LITTLE BOOTS ON THE BIG SCREEN

Based on a screenplay by Gore Vidal and starring Malcolm McDowell, Helen Mirren and Peter O'Toole, the controversial 1979 film *Caligula* keeps roughly to the known allegations, with some lurid exaggerations. As one might expect of something produced by Penthouse Films, the sex scenes are so dramatic that porn actors had to be hired for the more explicit scenes. The end product is still banned in some western countries.

Though produced 40 years ago, the film continues to directly and indirectly influence views of Caligula the sex maniac, though his madness is downplayed to disturbing eccentricities and sadistic invention.



X-RATED EMPEROR
Tinto Brass's 1979 film focused on Caligula's supposed sexual excesses

Caligula did order some executions, but compare this to the hundreds killed by Augustus

◀ slaughtered by the dozen, he is curiously reticent about naming them. Other writers, such as Appian and Plutarch, meticulously document the senators killed in the much bloodier purges of Sulla and the Triumvirs.

Caligula did order the execution of Tiberius's son and his Praetorian prefect Macro (who appeared set on emulating Sejanus in ambition), as well as his cousin, the king of Mauritania. But most of his other victims are dubious, like the gladiator who died of an infected wound after Caligula had visited him. So in all there are less than a dozen names. Compare this to hundreds killed by Augustus, dozens by Tiberius, and many more by Nero and Claudius, with most of their high-ranking victims carefully named.

As there is insufficient space to refute every allegation of Caligula's madness, two examples must suffice. The first is Philo's account of a meeting with Caligula. He and a group of ambassadors had travelled from Egypt to complain about the provincial governor, but Caligula was inspecting some mansions he had ordered so the unfortunate ambassadors had to run after him from room to room. Finally, Caligula ordered the breathless delegation to present their case.

Philo reckons he was dealing with a lunatic, yet this deranged conduct led to a rehearsed hours-long speech being compressed into a five-minute synopsis, after which

Caligula decided in the delegation's favour. He also inspected his buildings while he was at it.

DAMNED BY HISTORY

Secondly, we are told that early in his reign Caligula had a sudden impulse to visit the army in Germany and dashed to the frontier with none of the usual preparations. Once there, he decided to kill the army commander and various soldiers. In truth, that commander was a general of suspect loyalty whom Tiberius had earlier ordered to Rome. The general knew he faced execution on arrival there, so replied that if he came he would bring his army; he then remained in Germany. Caligula's sudden arrival caught him flat-footed and he was executed before rallying allies, whom Caligula subsequently purged. The move was bold, ruthless and decisive, but not necessarily insane.

After Caligula's assassination four years after he took power, it became even more urgent to stress that he had been mad – he was still popular with the people and army despite his war with the senate. The new emperor Claudius was insecure in his position and the senate eager to justify Caligula's killing – so, without Caligula present to retaliate, the damning of his name proceeded without restraint. 📍



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Has Caligula been unfairly portrayed? Was he madder and badder than most, or just misunderstood?

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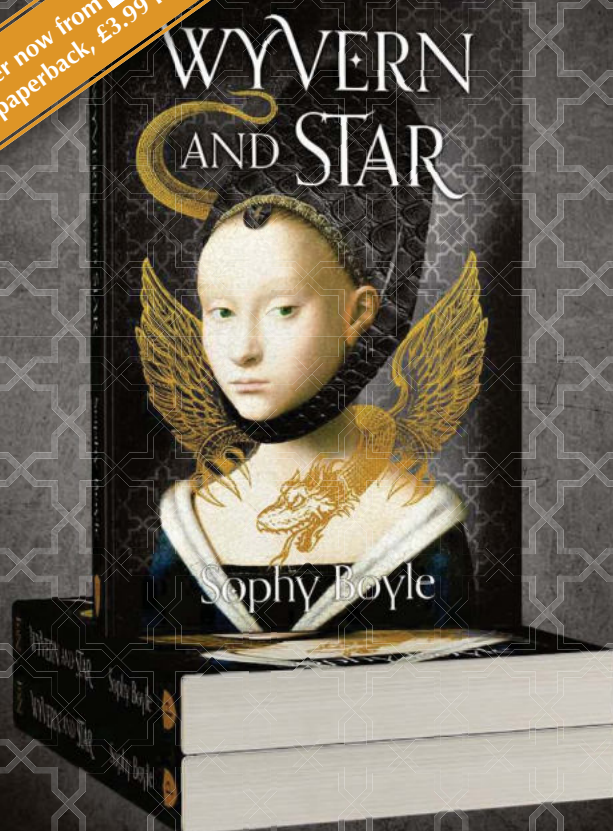
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SINKING ON THE SOLENT

The Cowdray Engraving (a copy of a 1540s painting) shows the *Mary Rose* just before sinking while Henry VIII, mounted on his horse, looks on

SAVING THE MARY ROSE

Henry VIII's favourite warship was raised from its grave in the Solent, and now gives us a fascinating picture of Tudor life. But how was she lost, and then reborn? **Alice Barnes-Brown** delves into the story



A blustery wind began blowing around Portsmouth Harbour on the afternoon of 19 July 1545, which was good news for Henry VIII's fleet.

Having been becalmed during preparations to attack the approaching French navy, crews took advantage of the breeze and sped towards the enemy. But then the luck changed. As the *Mary Rose*, one of the large warships leading the English fleet, turned so that she could fire her guns, the wind turned against her. Water poured in through her open gunports, and the ship quickly sank. In just a matter of minutes, nearly all of the crew had been lost to the unmerciful waves of the Solent.

Such was the tragic fate of the *Mary Rose*, the favourite of Henry. But more than four centuries later, she would once again see the light of day when the *Mary Rose* Trust miraculously raised her from the seabed in 1982. Now housed in a state-of-the-art museum in Portsmouth Historic

19k

The approximate number of artefacts recovered from the *Mary Rose*

Dockyard, the preserved ship is on display for visitors as a time capsule of the Tudor era.

PRIDE OF THE KING

When built, the *Mary Rose* was one of the largest ships of her time. Designed as a carrack from solid oak, she had four decks and 'castles' at either end, which were fighting stations and quarters of senior crew. The normal crew size was 400, but she could carry up to 700 in wartime. The *Mary Rose* must have been a spectacular sight on her first voyage in 1511 – Henry had spent a hefty sum on flags and banners alone.



HALF A HULL
The intact cross section, or 'doll's house version', of the ship, on display in Portsmouth

For more than 30 years, the *Mary Rose* was the pride of the English fleet. She was involved in numerous conflicts with France, before she was put in reserve in 1522. While laid up in Portsmouth in the 1530s, historians believe she was fitted with extra gun ports, to increase her capacity as a fighter. With the *Mary Rose* back in action by 1545, the fleet was once again brought into battle.

In early July 1545, the French approached the Solent with 128 ships, while the English had only 80. On the 18 July, Henry dined on board the ship *Henry Grace à Dieu* with the admiralty

and gifted to his new vice admiral George Carew full command of the *Mary Rose*.

Unfortunately for Carew, the very next day was to be his last. When the French gave battle, the *Mary Rose* returned fire. She then caught in the wind and leaned over heavily on her right side, allowing water to rush in through her gunports. In the chaos of her swift sinking, furniture and even a heavy gun came loose, crushing sailors. Out of a crew of around 500, less than 40 survived. The captain went down with his ship.

Henry, watching over the water at Southsea Castle, was dumbstruck. His beloved flagship had gone down before his eyes, with the loss of hundreds of his subjects. Out in the Solent, meanwhile, the rest of the fleet desperately tried to repel the invaders and rescue their comrades. Ultimately, the French failed to capture Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight, and went home.

HOPES OF SALVAGE

In spite of the king's despair, several people remained hopeful that the *Mary Rose* could be raised.

A few weeks later, in August 1545, Venetian salvagers reported "by Monday or Tuesday, the *Mary Rose* shall be weighed up and saved". Since the masts of the ship were accessible in the shallow Solent, the sails and rigging were rescued.

Retrieving the rest of the ship proved more difficult. Their plan was to slip strong ropes under the hull, attach them to two other boats, pull them taut and wait for high tide. The ship would then rise enough for it to be brought ashore. However, the *Mary Rose* was stuck fast into the clay, so getting any ropes underneath was nearly impossible.

Refusing to lose his precious ship that easily, Henry commissioned more salvagers to save whatever items they could. Early divers brought up guns and other loose items. One of the first divers, in 1549, was West African diver named Jacques Francis, who retrieved some of the most valuable weapons on the ship – alleviating the estimated £1,723 contemporary cost of lost ordnance.

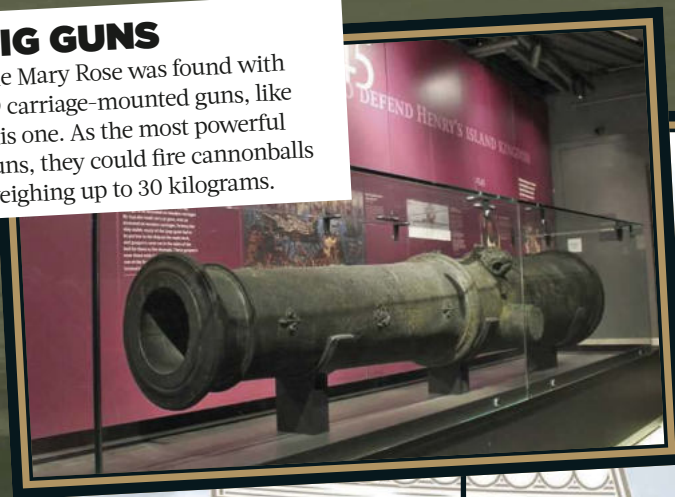
After Francis and his peers salvaged all they could, all hope of retrieving her declined. The once mighty *Mary Rose* faded from public memory as she was left to rot. Her exposed port side was worn away by the tides and eaten by shipworms. What remained was covered over by sediment, which formed protective layers.

INSIDE THE MARY ROSE MUSEUM

The museum, opened in 2013, takes you back to a time when the *Mary Rose* sailed the seas. You begin by learning the history of the ship, getting to see certain objects up close, then, you can explore three of its decks by walking along parallel corridors with floor-to-ceiling glass. Across the path, artefacts are placed corresponding to where they were found on the ship, as if it were reconstructing the missing other half. Each and every item has been painstakingly researched, catalogued and documented, with helpful information displayed right alongside.

BIG GUNS

The *Mary Rose* was found with 39 carriage-mounted guns, like this one. As the most powerful guns, they could fire cannonballs weighing up to 30 kilograms.



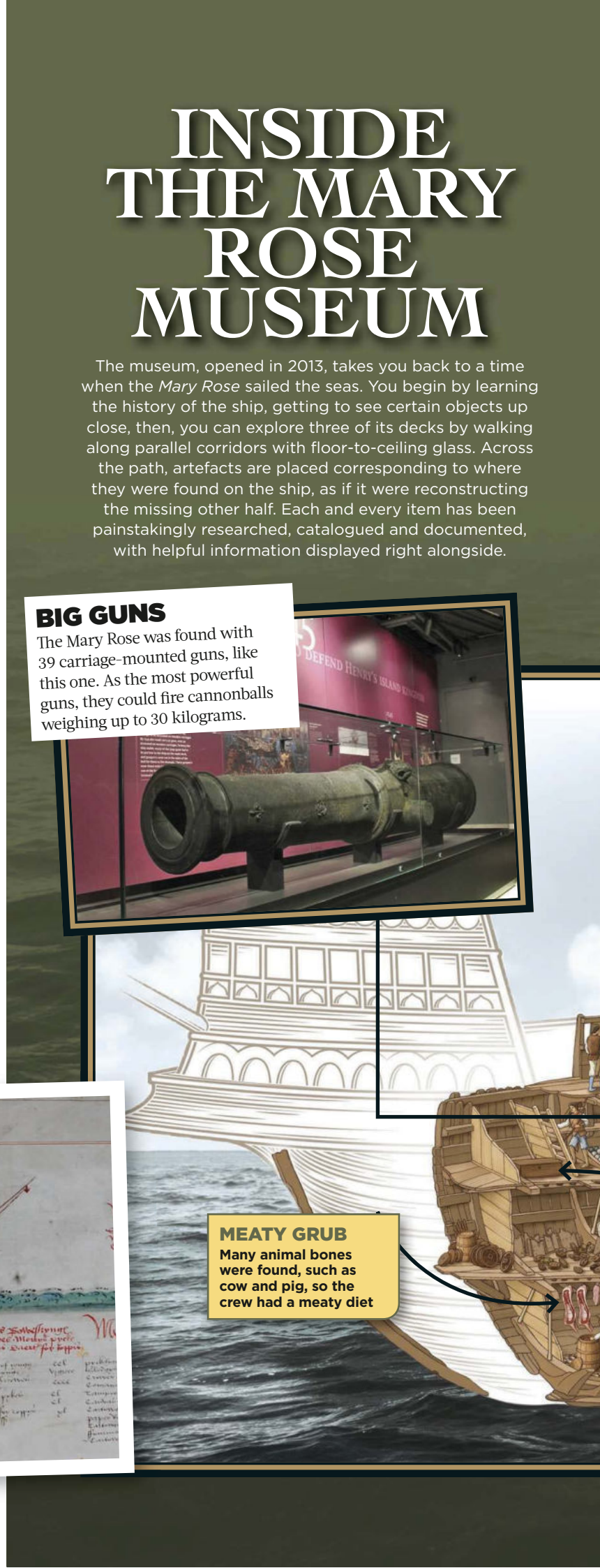
MEATY GRUB

Many animal bones were found, such as cow and pig, so the crew had a meaty diet



CAPTAIN AND LOG

ABOVE: George Carew was captain of the *Mary Rose* for just a day
RIGHT: The *Mary Rose* on the Anthony Roll, the only contemporary depiction of the ship to survive





THE GALLEY

At the bottom of the ship, in the galley, the team found two brick ovens. Each had a giant copper cauldron on top of them, as the cook had to make stews for hundreds of crew members.



SOUND THE ALARM

The watch bell, used to signal the changing of the sailors' watch patrols, was one of the last items to be recovered from the wreck site before the ship was raised in 1982. Made from bronze, the text at the top (translated from the original Flemish) reads, "I was made in the year 1510".

MISSING MASTS

Her masts are missing, as they were snapped off during the early salvage attempts.

ARTILLERY RANGE

On board, there were modern bronze cannons as well as medieval-style wrought iron ones

SMELLS FISHY

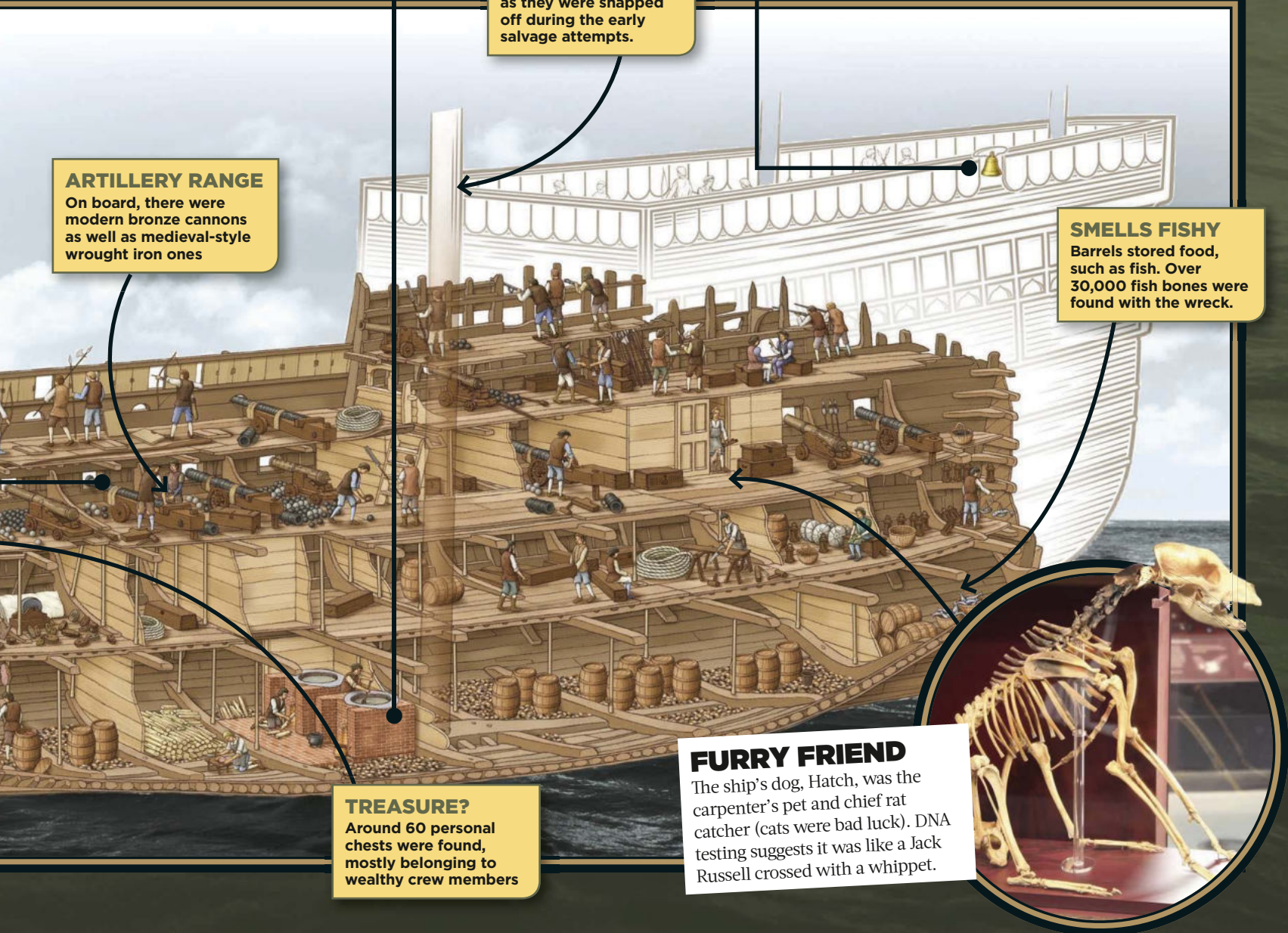
Barrels stored food, such as fish. Over 30,000 fish bones were found with the wreck.

FURRY FRIEND

The ship's dog, Hatch, was the carpenter's pet and chief rat catcher (cats were bad luck). DNA testing suggests it was like a Jack Russell crossed with a whippet.

TREASURE?

Around 60 personal chests were found, mostly belonging to wealthy crew members





570

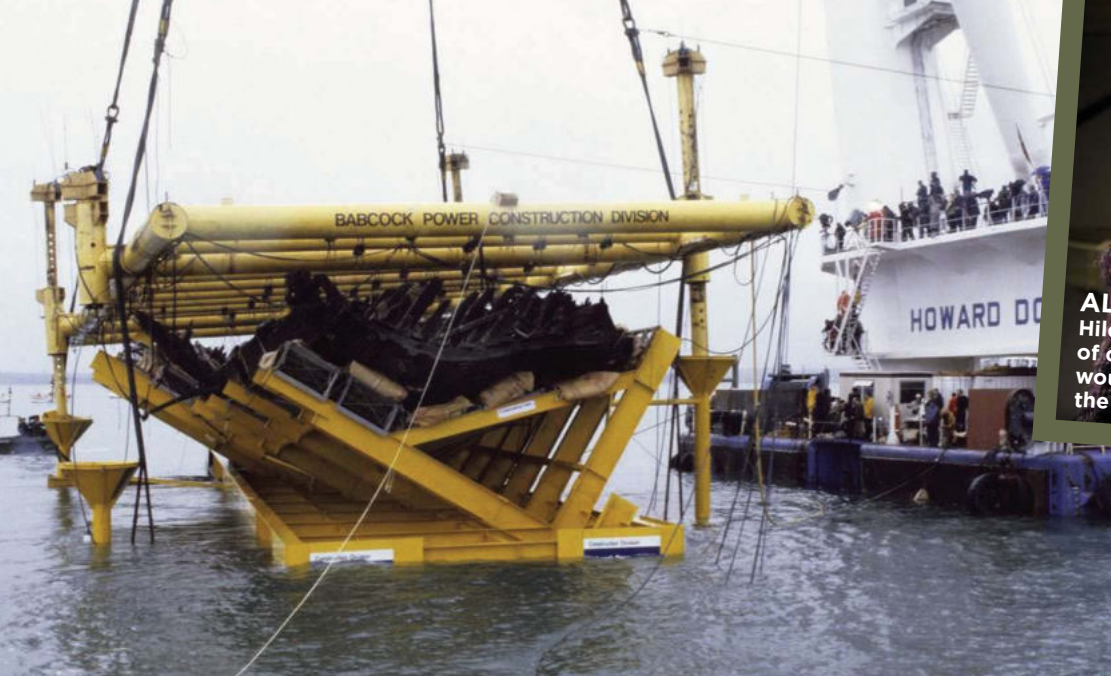
The number of tonnes
the cradle, ship and
frames weighed
all together

PAST AND PRESENT

This modern artist's
impression of what
the ship may have
looked like is based
on the remains



**“Once you’ve
exposed the wood
to the elements, it’s
a race against time
to get it out”**



THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY

ABOVE: The mechanism that rescued the sunken ship is lifted above the surface of the Solent on the dreary morning of 11 October 1982
LEFT: The ship was sprayed with water, then a chemical solution, for nearly 30 years. During this time, it was difficult to see the ship
RIGHT: In 2005, the Trust recovered more items from the sea bed, including this two-tonne anchor



The *Mary Rose* had finally been laid to rest. That is until the 19th century when some local fishermen began complaining that their nets were snagging on something. They called in a pair of pioneering divers – John Deane and William Edwards – to investigate. Diving down, they recovered a few planks of wood, longbows, and cannons, one of which identified the wreck as the *Mary Rose*.

The discovery caused public interest to soar, but only temporarily. Deane and co made numerous dives to the wreck over the next few years and collected a princely sum's worth of items. At one point, they even took to putting gunpowder in the sediment protecting the ship, in order to search for buried treasures. But after they had taken any retrievable valuables, the *Mary Rose* was once again forgotten.

TROUBLED EXCAVATION

Languishing on the seabed, it was not until 1971 that she was relocated again. As part of a project to locate shipwrecks in the Solent, the British Sub-Aqua Club used sonar scans to identify the wreck site, and a few timbers were found. Dr Alex Hildred, who is now the Head of Ordnance and Human Remains at the Mary Rose Museum, first dived down to the ship in October 1979. "The first thing that the team found was the ends of four timbers, just sticking above the mud," she describes. They soon knew that they had a large cross-section of a ship.

In the late 1970s, they decided to excavate the entire wreck. Receiving no government funding for the project, the Mary Rose Trust was formed in 1979 to fund the ambitious project. The current Head of Conservation, Dr Eleanor Schofield, explains that financing the work was, and continues to be, a struggle. "We're always fighting for it," she says. Thankfully, widespread media coverage meant donations soon came flooding in, and the project grew.

However, time was of the essence. If they were going to raise the *Mary Rose*, it had to be done within the next few years. "Once you've exposed the wood to the elements, it's a race against time to get it out," says Hildred. The deadline was set for the end of 1982. In the meantime, a number of priceless artefacts were brought up, such as wooden chests belonging to wealthier members of the crew.

Lifting the Tudor ship proved incredibly problematic. With only part of the hull remaining, slinging cables under the wreck meant risking its collapse. Pulling it up could cause worse damage, so the ship had to be strengthened and reinforced to stop it from breaking apart. Firstly, the deck planks were taken off, as were any surviving bulkheads, to lighten the load and prevent any breakages. All that was left was, as Hildred aptly describes, "a shell of a ship".

"We deconstructed her under the water, then drilled holes through the thickest parts of the

ALL ROSES
Hildred holding a piece of carved wood, which would once have been the Tudor Rose

SEA ARCHAEOLOGY DIVING THE TUDOR WRECK

Once the wreck was discovered by a group of diving enthusiasts, the long process of surveying and documenting the wreck could begin. The ship was to be gently excavated from centuries' worth of debris, to determine what it looked like, what had survived, and whether or not it could be lifted from the seabed.

To make this massive project possible, the salvage vessel *Sleipner* was moored at the site, housing up to 40 divers at any one time, working in shifts. It didn't take long for the team to expand massively, bringing in large numbers of volunteers, so the work could be completed as quickly as possible.

Dr Alex Hildred, who joined the team in the late 1970s and still dives the site today, describes what the divers did under the murky depths of the Solent.

"We had a team of 12 full-time people, and the only way we could maximize dive time was to bring volunteer divers out. So we had six boats, each coming at different times, bringing 10-12 volunteers to the boat. The first would come out at 8am, they'd do their dive, then get sent back to shore again.

"When you got on board, you had a talk about the history of the *Mary Rose*, followed by a safety briefing. Visibility under the water was atrocious, as little as 30 centimetres, so everything was done by feeling rather than seeing. Over the ship there was a bright yellow grid, which indicated roughly where you were on the ship," continues Hildred. They then excavated their dedicated section and returned to the surface.

Using trowels and airlifts (a handheld dredging device), the divers peeled back layer upon layer of sediment, uncovering artefacts from the years since the *Mary Rose* sank along the way. In 1982, it was decided the ship was ready to emerge from hundreds of years of slumber.



SITTING PRETTY
The *Vasa* is incredibly well preserved, complete with ornate carvings only partially worn away



THE VASA SWEDEN'S MARY ROSE

While the *Mary Rose* is unique, the raising of the 17th-century Swedish warship *Vasa* set a precedent that the archaeologists could follow. "We take a lot of inspiration from the *Vasa*", says Dr Eleanor Schofield of the *Mary Rose* Trust. "It's not uncommon for us to get in touch and ask them questions."

When it capsized and sank on its maiden voyage in 1628, the *Vasa* rested upright at the bottom of Stockholm harbour. The cold waters of the Baltic made it very difficult for shipworm to survive, so even after 333 years underwater, the ship was in excellent condition. After the raising, in 1961, using the same methods the Tudor salvagers would propose, the *Vasa* was doused with PEG and went through a slow drying process.

Like the *Mary Rose*, the ship has not completely dried out, but visitors are still able to enjoy and appreciate the splendid vessel. Having been restored to its former glory, you can get up close and personal with the beautiful, intricate carvings and get a sense of what it was really like to be on board such a masterpiece.

"The team watched with bated breath as the *Mary Rose* broke the surface"

hull, placed wires through with rubber backing plates underneath," she continues. A steel bolt kept it all together, and this was reproduced on the other side of the wood, so the ship was "sandwiched between the protective material". The wires themselves led up to a frame, which held the hull in place.

The fragile skeleton of the *Mary Rose* was then hydraulically jacked up to free it from the seabed and delicately placed into a cushioned, bespoke cage – the famous yellow cradle seen in news broadcasts all over the world. On the day of the lift, 11 October 1982, some 60 million people tuned in to see the ship edge slowly out of the water for the first time in over 400 years. The team watched with bated breath as the *Mary Rose* broke the surface just after 9am. But as it slowly moved up, disaster nearly struck when one of the wires in the lifting frame broke, almost bringing heavy metal down onto the hull. Prince Charles, watching from a nearby boat, gasped.

Once safely out of the water and in dry dock, the team had to act immediately to stop the wood decaying. Schofield explains, "We sprayed it with cold water so it didn't dry out, and

to stop bacterial activity happening." Where shipworm and other bacteria had eaten away parts of the wood, it became so waterlogged that the water was the only thing keeping it together.

INDUSTRIAL CONSERVATION

With the Trust ever struggling for funds, the *Mary Rose* went on public display just a year later, still being sprayed with cold water. "At the end of the day, she's a showcase. We need people coming and paying for tickets so we can keep doing what we're doing", says Schofield. This meant that the ship had to be more than a waterlogged shadow of its former self. Over the next decade, she was turned upright, and her decks put back in.

In 1994, the ship was no longer sprayed with water, but with a waxy substance called polyethylene glycol (PEG). As a liquid, it gets into every nook and cranny of the wood and replaces the water molecules holding the structure together with something more stable. But, as Schofield argues, conservation work walks a fine line between putting enough PEG in and not bombarding it so it "looks too much like plastic, and not like wood anymore".



£25

The amount, in millions, the Trust was given towards the new museum

DRYING OUT
In the first phase of drying, black ducts were put on the decks to blow conditioned air, and remove water

So began the process dubbed “industrial conservation”. The PEG was sprayed onto the ship using a complex system of pipes, filters and specially designed nozzles, to ensure every last part of the wood was covered. Then, in 2006, they switched to a different form of PEG,

SHIP SHAPE

The new Mary Rose Museum, next to the HMS *Victory*, was designed to pay homage to the Tudor ship by imitating its curved timbers



intended to cover the outer layers of the ship and seal in the hard work done so far. By then, an incredible discovery had been made at the wreck site. The five-metre long stem of the ship – the foremost part of the hull – had been found. Though it looks unassuming, this strip of wood was critical in confirming the dimensions of the ship, now estimated to be 35 metres long and 15 metres wide.

But while it was being sprayed, the *Mary Rose* could not be seen in its full glory, as the view of the damp ship was obscured by pipes and mist. In order to prepare for the final stages of conservation, when the drying out process would begin, a new museum was built in 2013. Financed by a £25 million Heritage Lottery grant, the elegant museum reunites the ship with many of the artefacts and human remains she was found with, forming a perfect time capsule of the Tudor era.

The ship forms the centerpiece of the museum, and visitors can walk parallel to the decks, seeing what was once inside ship. They are even afforded the opportunity to breathe the same air as the *Mary Rose*, as if you were walking upon its top decks.

As the ship isn't fully dry yet, there's still plenty of work to be done. The wood has to be meticulously monitored to ensure the ship doesn't collapse and eventually, visitors will be able to experience a 360-degree view of the entire ship. With the large-scale conservation 35 years and counting, Henry's beloved ship is in safe hands for future generations to discover, learn and enjoy. 📍

GET HOOKED

VISIT

The Mary Rose Museum is a part of the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard complex, showcasing other key pieces from Britain's naval history, such as HMS *Victory*. It's open all year round, tickets from £18.

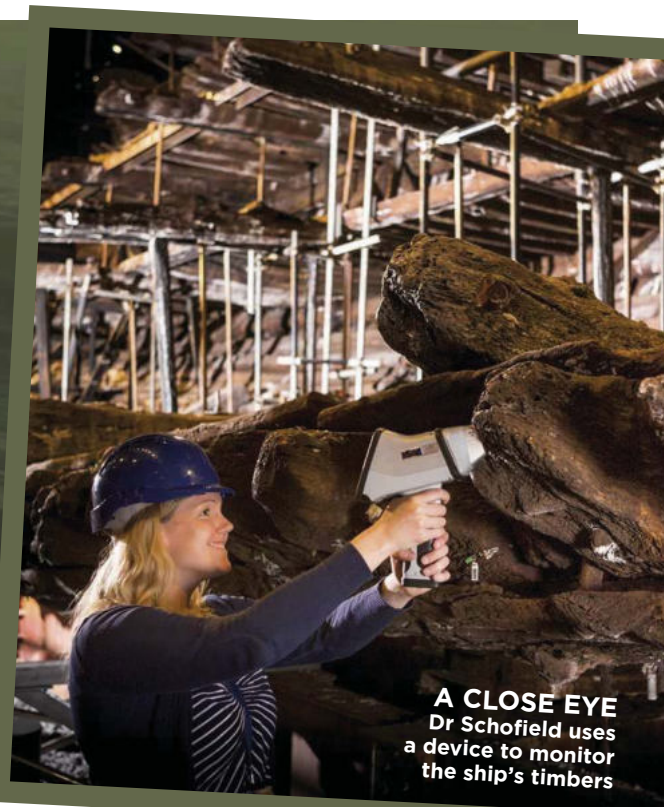
CONSERVING THE TUDOR TREASURE MARY ROSE: WHAT'S TO COME

As well as continuing the drying out process, there's still a lot of work to be done on the *Mary Rose*. It's not all plain sailing, explains Dr Eleanor Schofield: “We're constantly monitoring the ship for movements, and measuring the temperature and humidity of where it's kept.” There has been some shifting of planks since the drying out process began, Schofield states, and to stop it from getting worse the large structure has been propped up with scaffolding.

The conservators have experienced other issues. “PEG is something that can degrade, which we have seen from places like the *Vasa*,” notes Schofield. Combined with what she affectionately calls “junk from under the sea bed”, the wood has turned into an entirely new material, which requires constant surveying.

Schofield laments, “People don't like scaffolding, but I think it's great. We need to support the ship, so we've got these scaffolding tubes in place at the moment.” When the ship eventually dries completely, the plan is to design a new support system, which will stand the test of time.

As well as onshore work, any keen-eyed diver at the wreck site of the *Mary Rose* will notice a curious white sheet on the sea floor. Under this protective membrane lies another significant piece of the puzzle. In 2005, a large part of the bow was found and surveyed, as well as the stem and an anchor, which were both raised. The rest of the bow was reburied to keep it safe for future archaeologists to study.

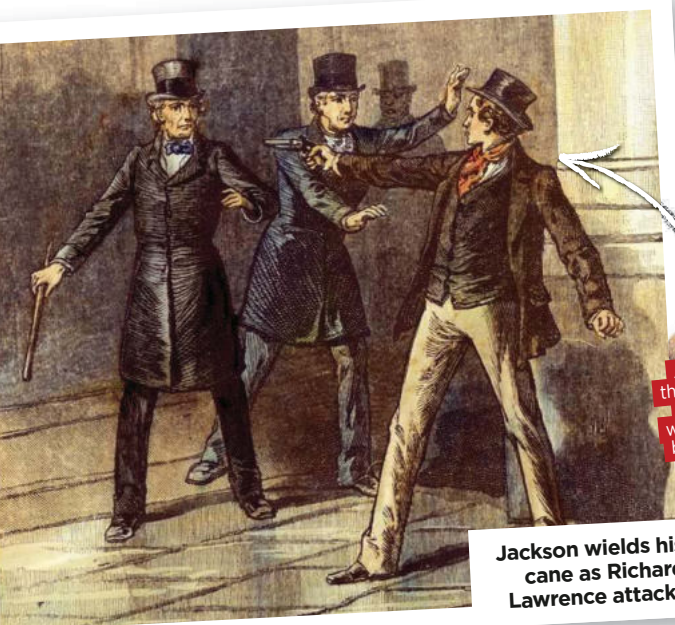


A CLOSE EYE
Dr Schofield uses a device to monitor the ship's timbers



Failed assassinations

These murderous plots could have changed the course of history – if they had succeeded...



Jackson wields his cane as Richard Lawrence attacks



Jackson believed that John C Calhoun, his political rival, was the mastermind behind the attempt

MOTHER-SHIP

TARGET: Agrippina the Younger

CULPRIT: Emperor Nero, her son

METHOD: Booby-trapped boat

The sadistic Roman emperor Nero got so fed up of his mother wielding political influence over him that he tried to have her killed. According to historian Tacitus, he had a boat built that would sink itself. Agrippina boarded and set off the first booby trap – a collapsing ceiling – but it missed her and killed her servant. Then, when the boat didn't sink, the crew had to do it themselves. Still Nero's mother lived, as she swam to shore.

DON'T BRING A GUN TO A CANE FIGHT

TARGET: Andrew Jackson

CULPRIT: Richard Lawrence

METHOD: Pistol

In January 1835, as US president Andrew Jackson left the Capitol building in Washington DC, a man stepped forward and fired at him twice. Richard Lawrence, an unemployed painter and decorator originally from England, blamed the president for his recent misfortune and unemployment. Luckily for Jackson, both of his would-be assassin's pistols misfired. Never one to shy away from a fight, an enraged Jackson clubbed the failed killer with his cane until the authorities arrived.

NOT-SO-FINAL WORDS

TARGET: Louis XV

CULPRIT: Robert-François Damiens

METHOD: Knife

The unpopular playboy king of France, Louis XV, was walking the grounds of Versailles one cold January night in 1757, when, out of nowhere, a domestic servant lunged forward, wielding a penknife. Convinced he would die from the wound, the king made a full confession to his wife about his mistresses. This was a bit premature as the blade had only gone 1cm into his body – thanks to the many layers of clothing he wore – and Louis survived. His marriage, though, was wrecked.



DUCK, IL DUCE!

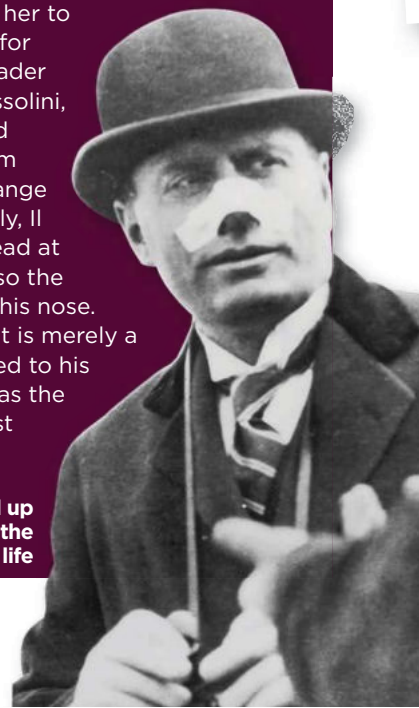
TARGET: Benito Mussolini

CULPRIT: Violet Gibson

METHOD: Revolver

The daughter of an Irish nobleman, Violet Gibson apparently heard voices in her head, telling her to sacrifice someone for God. The fascist leader of Italy, Benito Mussolini, seemed like a good target. She shot him from point blank range in 1926. Miraculously, Il Duce moved his head at the right moment so the bullet only grazed his nose. "Do not be afraid, it is merely a trifle," he announced to his adoring followers, as the angry crowd almost lynched Gibson.

Mussolini plastered up his nose after the attempt on his life



Sanzō was later captured fleeing the scene by two rickshaw drivers

SAMURAI WORRIER

TARGET: Nicholas, Tsesarevich of Russia
CULPRIT: Tsuda Sanzō
METHOD: Sword

As the future tsar Nicholas II toured Japan in 1891, he enjoyed the country's ancient traditions, but not so much the sword-wielding legacy of the samurai. A policeman meant to protect him turned and swooped at the Tsesarevich with his sword, leaving him with a deep gash on his face. Sanzō tried again, but Nicholas's life was saved when his cousin, Prince George of Greece and Denmark, parried the blow with his walking stick.

TABLES TURNED

TARGET: Adolf Hitler
CULPRIT: Claus von Stauffenberg and others
METHOD: Bomb

In a last-ditch attempt to end the war, German officer Claus von Stauffenberg hatched a plot to kill the Führer. The date was set for 20 July 1944, when Stauffenberg attended a conference with Hitler at the Wolf's Lair. He placed his briefcase, with the bomb, under the table. It all went wrong when another officer moved the case behind a table leg, deflecting the blast away from Hitler.

Hitler, Goebbels and Goering survey the damaged room

HUNTING A BULL MOOSE

TARGET: Theodore Roosevelt
CULPRIT: John Flammang Schrank **METHOD:** Pistol

On the campaign trail in 1912, former president Theodore Roosevelt was about to speak in Milwaukee, when a disgruntled pub landlord shot him. The bullet penetrated his steel glasses case and the 50-page speech in his pocket, and lodged in his chest. Teddy, seeing that he wasn't coughing up blood, decided he was well enough to go on, giving his speech in full.

Teddy quickly quipped "it takes more than that to kill a bull moose"

UNDER THE HAMMER

TARGET: Qin Shi Huang
CULPRIT: Zhang Liang
METHOD: Death by strongman

The first emperor of unified China, Qin Shi Huang, made a number of enemies on his rise. One supposedly came up with a novel way to kill the emperor. In 230 BC, Zhang Liang hired a local strongman to lob a huge iron hammer, which he had specially forged, into the emperor's carriage. Allegedly, the strongman threw it into the wrong carriage.

The Emperor had thought ahead, and brought a decoy carriage along just in case

The Shah reads a note while he recovers in hospital

CLOSE BUT NO SHAH

TARGET: Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Shah of Iran
CULPRIT: Fakhr-Arai
METHOD: Gun

While attending a university ceremony in 1949, a man named Fakhr-Arai fired five shots at the Shah of Iran from just a few metres away. Incredibly, he only hit his target once, resulting in a grazed cheek as the only injury. The other bullets went through the Shah's hat. Police killed Fakhr-Arai instantly. In the aftermath, claims were made that the poor-shooting attacker was a member of the country's communist party, giving the Shah the excuse to have it banned.

CAR SAFETY

TARGET: Charles de Gaulle **CULPRIT:** Secret Army Organisation
METHOD: A dozen gunmen

Following de Gaulle's decision to grant Algeria independence, a group of French ultra nationalists (the 'Secret Army Organisation') tried to assassinate the president. In August 1962, as he was riding to the airport in his Citroën limo, the would-be assassins, led by weapons engineer Jean Bastien-Thiry, rained down around 140 bullets on de Gaulle and his wife. Thanks to quick reactions and the driver's skills, they survived. Grateful to Citroën, de Gaulle was loyal to them for the rest of his life.



In 1969, Charles de Gaulle actively prevented the sale of Citroën to Italian giant Fiat



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Know of other blundered assassinations? Who did we miss off the list?

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com

TAKING FLIGHT

Humankind has always looked up with a desire to fly like the birds, but it took some brave (often eccentric) pioneers to make the dream a reality

ORIGINAL BIRDMAN

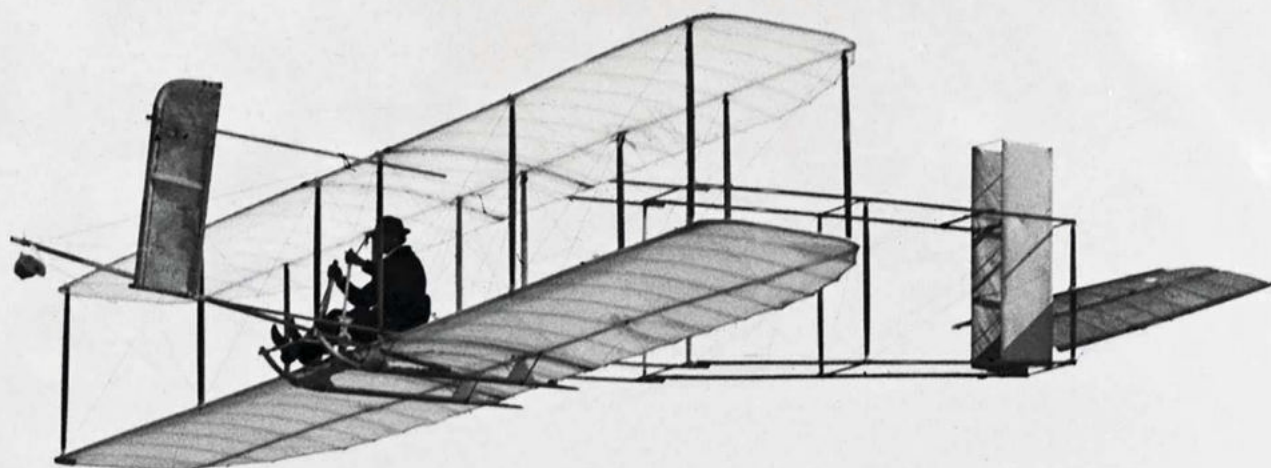
Otto Lilienthal swoops over a small crowd as he demonstrates his set of wings. To get his early form of glider airborne, the German would race off high points and leap into the air. By 1893, he could reach up to 250 metres but only three years later, Lilienthal broke his neck when a flight went wrong and died.

GETTY



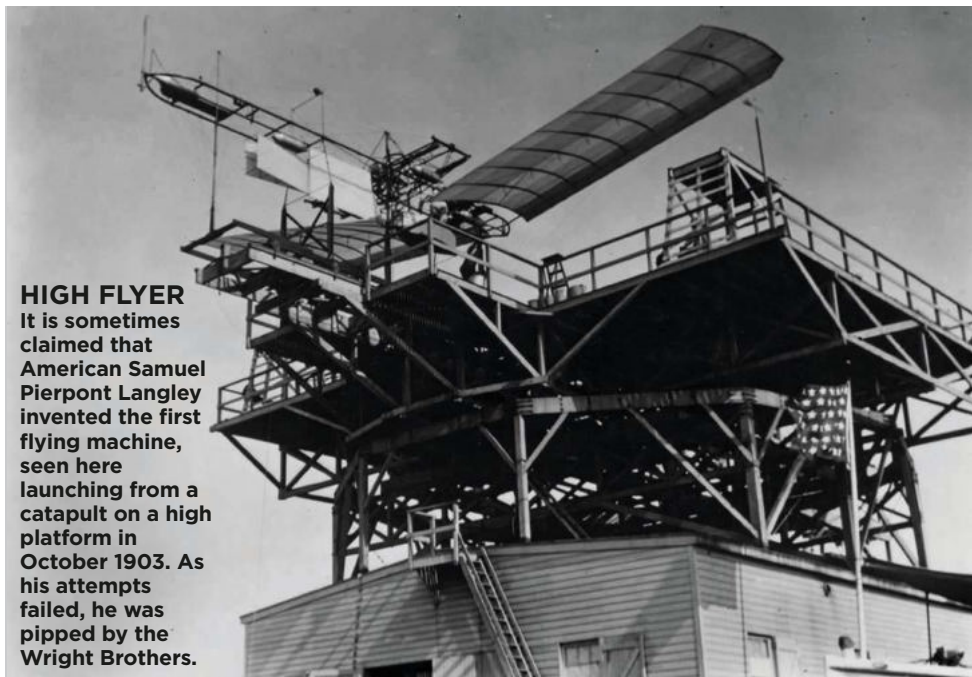
“IF BIRDS CAN GLIDE FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME, THEN... WHY CAN'T I?”

ORVILLE WRIGHT

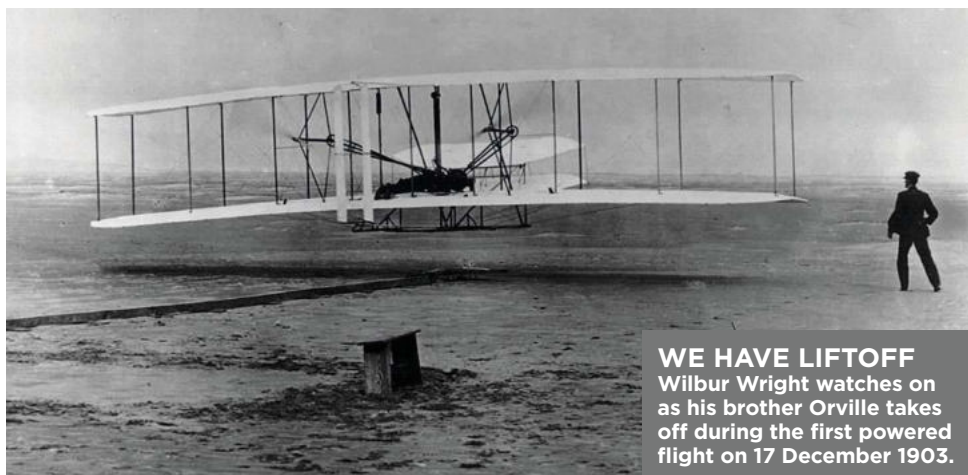


GETTING IT WRIGHT

Orville and Wilbur Wright were American brothers who started out owning a bicycle shop. When they turned their attention to flight, however, they dedicated their work to allowing humans to fly. Not long after this test flight of a glider, they returned to the spot, Kill Devil Hills in North Carolina, for the first powered flight. In 1903, their flying machine took off, spent 12 seconds in the air and landed safely around 37 metres away.



HIGH FLYER
It is sometimes claimed that American Samuel Pierpont Langley invented the first flying machine, seen here launching from a catapult on a high platform in October 1903. As his attempts failed, he was pipped by the Wright Brothers.



WE HAVE LIFTOFF
Wilbur Wright watches on as his brother Orville takes off during the first powered flight on 17 December 1903.

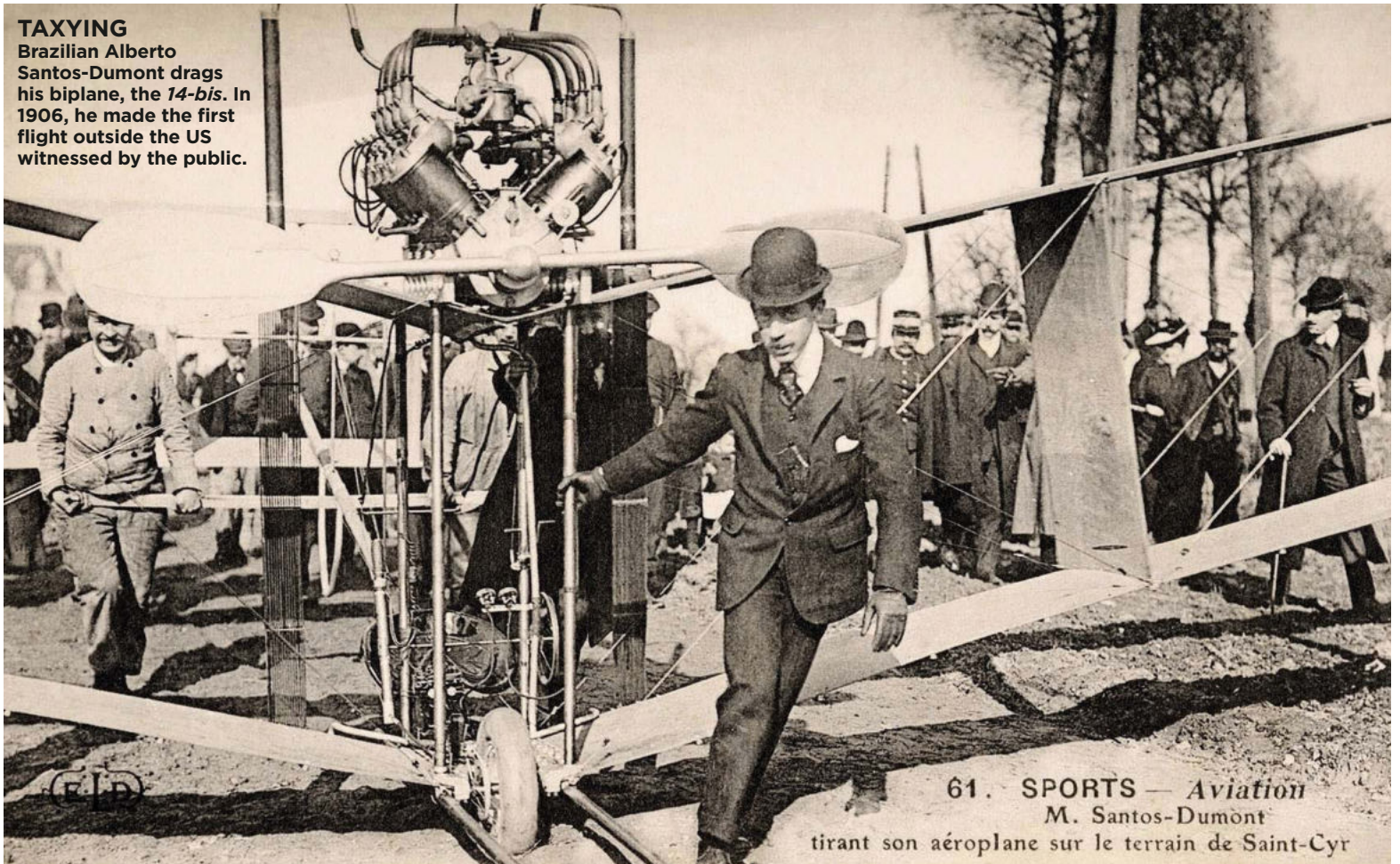


ROADWORTHY
Europeans, such as Romanian inventor Traian Vuia, were also working to unlock the secrets of flight. Here he is (on the right, next to French aviator Léon Delagrangé) with the 1905 *Vuia I*, which could take off on ordinary roads.

ALAMY X1, GETTY X3

TAXYING

Brazilian Alberto Santos-Dumont drags his biplane, the 14-bis. In 1906, he made the first flight outside the US witnessed by the public.



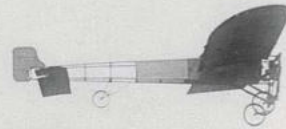
61. SPORTS — Aviation

M. Santos-Dumont

tirant son aéroplane sur le terrain de Saint-Cyr

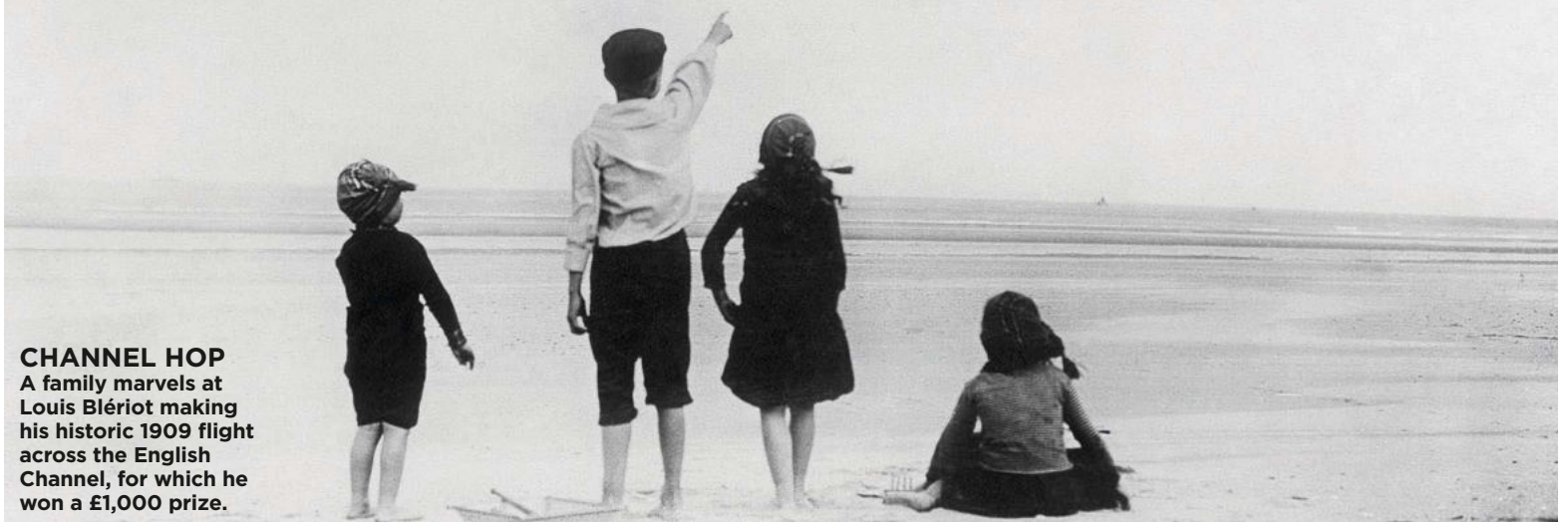
**“THE MOST BEAUTIFUL
DREAM THAT HAS
HAUNTED THE HEART
OF MAN SINCE ICARUS
IS TODAY REALITY”**

LOUIS BLÉRIOT



CHANNEL HOP

A family marvels at Louis Blériot making his historic 1909 flight across the English Channel, for which he won a £1,000 prize.



EARNING HIS WINGS

Glenn Curtiss, on the left, was an American businessman who saw the practical potential of flight early on. He showed how planes could be used for bombing targets, and taught people how to fly his plane – such as fellow aviator John Henry Towers, seated on the right.

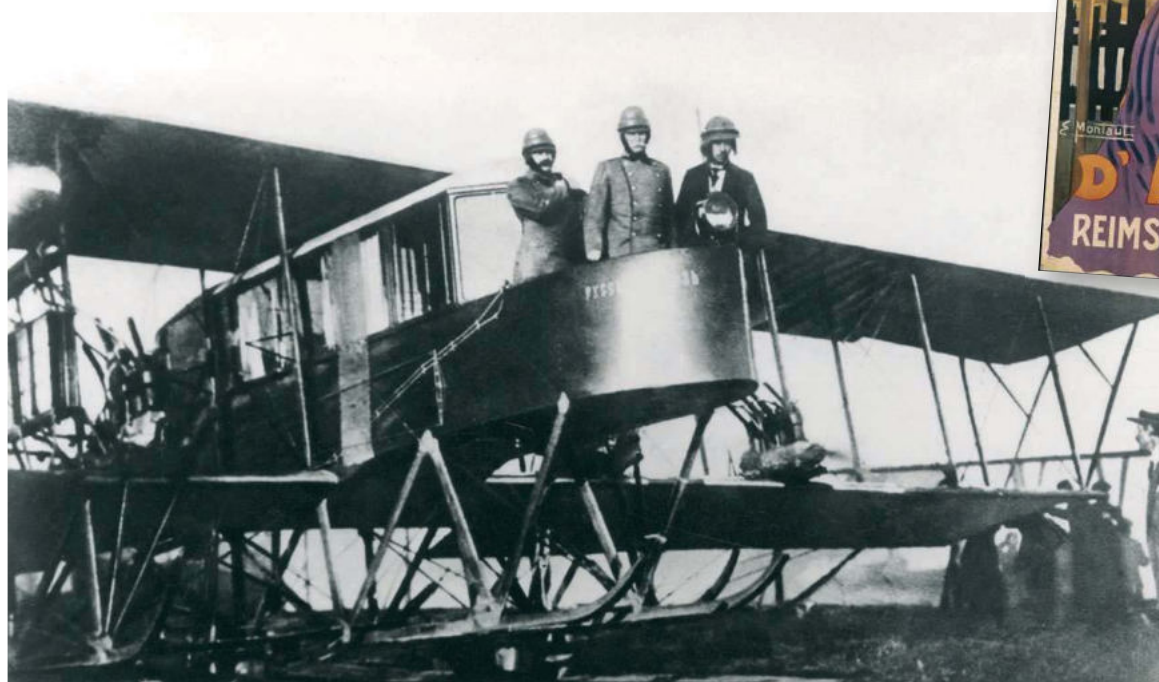


WEEK TO REMEMBER

The first serious exposition, the “great week of aviation”, was held in Reims, France, in August 1909. Among the 500,000 attendees was the future British Prime Minister David Lloyd George.

FIRST-CLASS SERVICE

Planes quickly became more and more luxurious. The *Ilya Muromets*, produced in 1913, could carry up to 16 passengers and even featured an on-board toilet.



KOREA: BRITAIN'S FORGOTTEN WAR

Julian Humphrys tells the story of Britain's involvement in a war that has never actually officially ended



LINE IN THE SAND
British soldiers at Naktong River, South Korea, scan the horizon for North Korean incursions as the peninsula becomes the battleground of East vs West

INTRODUCTION

At the end of World War II, Korea – formerly occupied by Japan – was divided along the 38th Parallel. In the north, the Russians installed a communist regime, headed by Kim Il-Sung. In the south, the Americans backed the pro-western and anti-communist government of Syngman Rhee.

In 1948, the south declared itself to be the Republic of Korea and the north responded by proclaiming itself the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Although both the Russians and the US had withdrawn their military forces, the Soviet-backed North Korean army, in June 1950 after a series of border clashes, crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded South Korea. The Cold War had suddenly got hotter.

UNSUNG ALLIES

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders are the first British boots on the ground in August 1950. Over 60,000 British military personnel served in the now largely forgotten conflict



It was about ten in the evening on Saturday 24 June 1950. US President Harry S Truman was relaxing in the library of his family home in Independence, Missouri when the telephone rang. It was Dean Acheson, his Secretary of State. “Mr President,” said Acheson, “I have very serious news. The North Koreans have invaded South Korea.”

At about 0400hrs local time on 25 June, the Soviet-backed North Korean army had crossed the 38th Parallel into South Korea, sparking what would be a three-year conflict costing millions of lives. Later that day, prompted by the United States, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 82, unanimously condemning the invasion. The Soviet Union could have vetoed the resolution, but was boycotting council meetings in protest at the fact that Taiwan and not the mainland People's Republic of China held a permanent seat on the council. Two days later, the Security Council published Resolution 83, calling on member states to send military aid to South Korea. President Truman immediately ordered US air and sea forces to help the South Koreans. Four under-strength and ill-prepared US divisions were hurriedly shipped over from Japan to try to stem the tide, but the North Koreans were well-equipped with Russian tanks and artillery and enjoyed the advantage of numbers. By mid-August, the Americans and South Koreans had been driven back to the south-east corner of the country around the port of Pusan.

Even though Korea was hardly central to British interests, the British government agreed to send help. But the war couldn't have come at a more awkward time. The government had carried out a massive demobilisation

programme following the end of World War II, but it still needed troops to support Britain's postwar and imperial commitments. Soldiers were deployed in West Germany and Berlin to guard against the Soviet threat, while others were stationed in Austria and the Middle East. India was now independent and troops had been withdrawn from Palestine, but substantial forces were needed to deal with problems elsewhere. Nationalist activities threatened the Suez Canal and there was a communist insurrection in Malaya. Extra troops had been sent to Hong Kong to guard against possible aggression by the Communist Chinese and there were also garrisons to man in Malta, Gibraltar and the West Indies.

It was clear that Britain would never be able to meet all these challenges with a volunteer army alone. In 1947, the government had

passed the National Service Act, which required men between the ages of 18 and 26 to spend 18 months in the armed forces. The Korean War obliged the government to extend the period of service to two years. By mid-1952 the Army numbered about 440,000, of whom about half were national servicemen.

BRIT TROOPS ARRIVE

The first contingent of British soldiers to fight in the war (a battalion each of the Middlesex Regiment and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders) landed in Korea on 29 August and were soon in action helping to defend the hard-pressed line around Pusan. Two months later they were joined by the 3rd Royal Australian Regiment and, as the 27th Brigade, they played a prominent role in the UN counter-offensive, which drove the North Koreans out of South

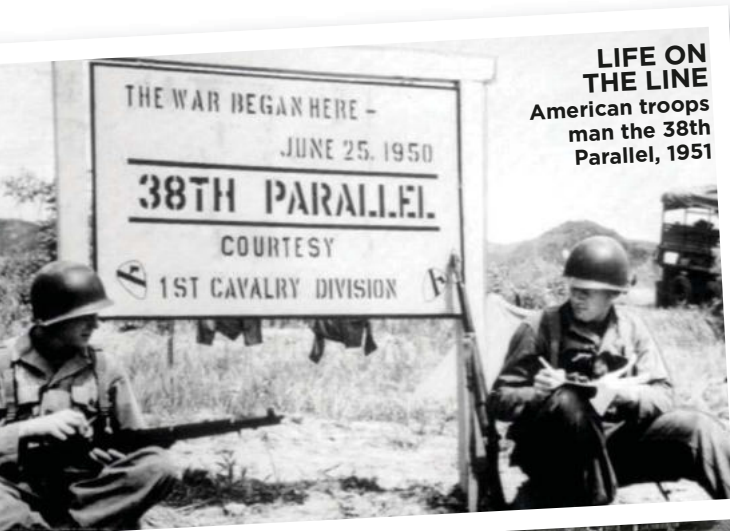
Korea and then advanced up to the Chinese border on the Yalu River. A complete UN victory seemed in sight but in October the Chinese, who were alarmed by the prospect of having western capitalist troops just across their border, intervened. Their forces poured across the Yalu River in vast numbers, forcing the UN troops to make a long fighting retreat in the depths of the bitter

DEATH JETS B-29 Superfortresses led the massive bombing campaign against North Korea

Korean winter. Seoul fell to the Chinese but was then recaptured as the UN forces hit back at the end of January and, following the failure of a second Chinese offensive in April, the two armies settled down to two years of static trench warfare of a kind familiar to any veteran of World War I.

Sixteen British infantry battalions, four armoured regiments, four artillery regiments (plus artillery batteries) and a range of supporting services would see service in Korea, normally for a year at a time. Regular soldiers and reservists formed the core, but over half the personnel in some regiments were national servicemen who were given ten weeks' training in the UK followed by further instruction on the six-week passage out to the Far East.

When they first arrived in Korea, the men of the 27th Brigade relied on the Americans for artillery and logistic support. Many British units were initially fed by the US Army and the food they were given came as a pleasant surprise. Young men who'd become accustomed to the



A complete UN victory seemed in sight... but then the Chinese intervened

WINTER RETREAT
South Korean forces trudge back south, pushed back from Pyongyang by the Chinese



privations of wartime were now tucking into pork chops, chicken noodles and fruit salad – a far cry from the bully beef, tinned steak and kidney pudding that formed the staple of British rations.

Gradually, the scale of Britain's contribution to the war effort grew. A second British brigade, the 29th, arrived in Korea in November 1950, together with units from the Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Royal Signals and other supporting services.

Australia, Canada, New Zealand and India also sent troops with the result that the British Commonwealth's contribution to the war effort grew from two battalions at the start of hostilities to a fully-functioning division by mid-1951.

SURROUNDED AT IMJIN

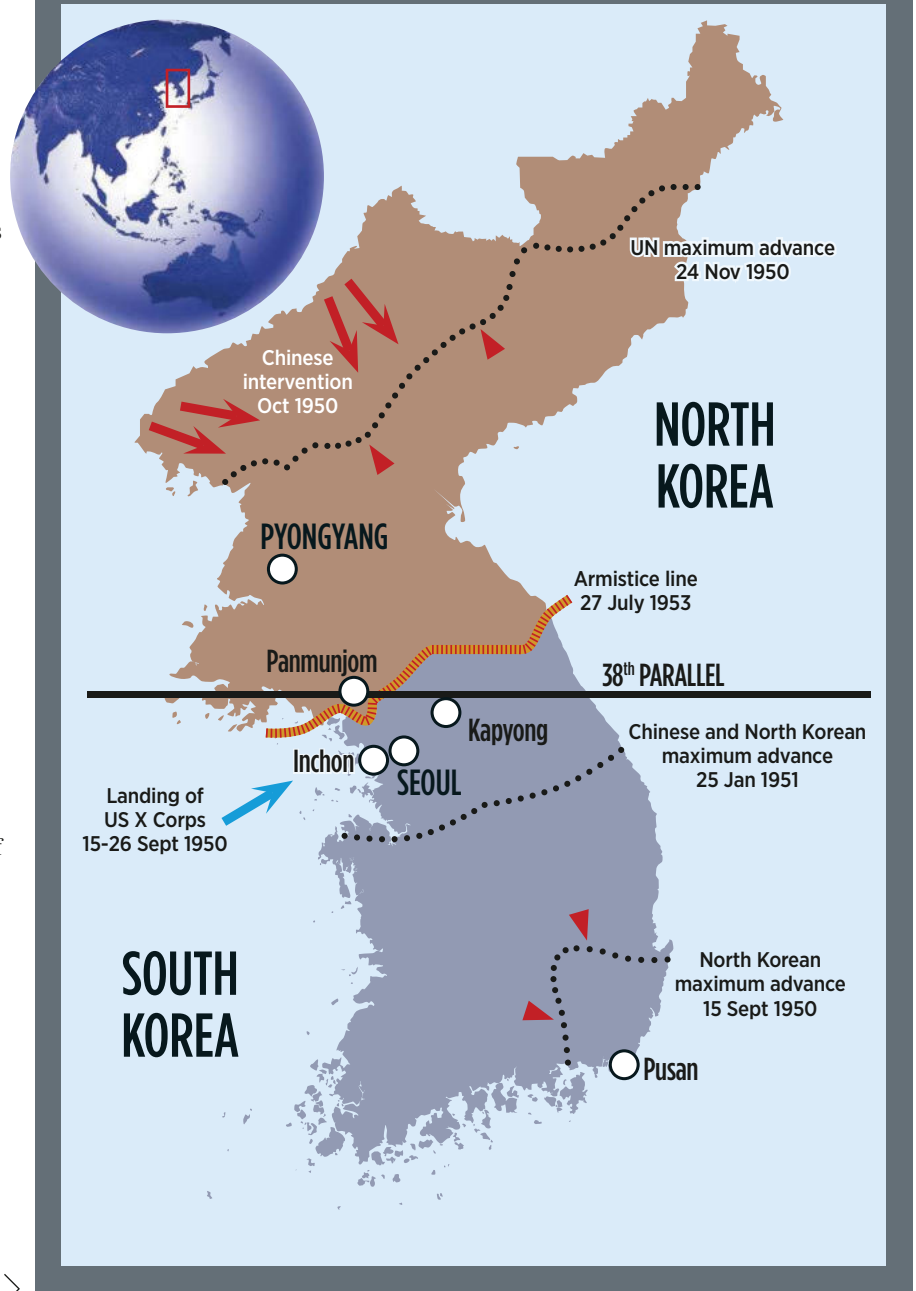
By far the most famous action fought by the British in Korea took place in April 1951 when, in a bid to break through to Seoul, three Chinese divisions, 27,000 men in all, advanced upon British positions along the Imjin River. Facing them were troops of the 29th British Brigade: the 1st Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, the 1st Royal Ulster Rifles and the 1st Gloucestershire Regiment, plus a battalion of Belgians and a squadron of tanks from the 8th Hussars – just 4,000 men in all.

With more than ten miles of front to hold and only four battalions to hold it, gaps in the line were inevitable and so the units were mainly positioned on and around key hills in the area. But the breaks in the line of defence enabled huge numbers of attacking Chinese (who also displayed a remarkable courage and disregard for danger) to pour across the Imjin River, bypass the hills and penetrate the very heart of the area held by the British. As more and more Chinese troops joined the fighting, the Gloucestershire Regiment found itself completely cut off from the rest of the brigade.

Although they inflicted heavy losses on their enemies with their rifles and quick-firing Bren guns, they were gradually forced back until the whole battalion was surrounded on a hill feature known as Hill 235. Led by Lieutenant Colonel James Carne, who would later be awarded a Victoria Cross for his actions, they fought it out for three days. Finally, hopelessly outnumbered, short of food, water and ammunition and with no prospect of relief, they were ordered to break out as best they could. Forty-six men managed to fight their way to safety but most of the others were taken prisoner. They would endure two bitter years of ill-treatment, semi-starvation and attempted indoctrination until they were freed at the end of

THE COURSE OF THE WAR

Korea repeatedly changed hands before a final stalemate



TIMELINE: three years that left 3 million Koreans dead

June–September 1950 North Korean invasion

North Korean army crosses 38th Parallel, captures Seoul and forces South Korean and US forces into small perimeter around the port of Pusan. UN votes to send aid. First British forces arrive in August.

September–November 1950 UN advance

US amphibious landing at Incheon outflanks the North Koreans. UN troops recapture Seoul, cross the 38th Parallel and capture Pyongyang. UN advances north towards the Yalu River, the border with China.

October 1950–January 1951 China intervenes

Communist China intervenes in force to support the North Koreans. UN forces are pushed back south of the 38th Parallel by the Chinese, who reoccupy Pyongyang and capture Seoul.

January–June 1951 UN recovery

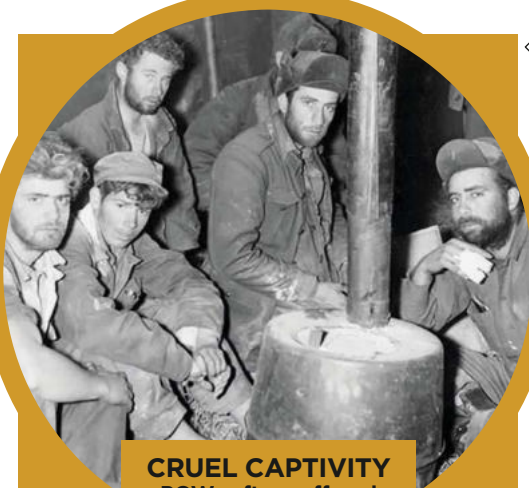
UN recaptures Seoul and advances beyond the 38th Parallel. In April, British and Commonwealth forces play a crucial role in blunting a Chinese counteroffensive.

July 1951–July 1953 Static warfare

Both sides entrench themselves and fortify their positions. Armistice negotiations begin. US aircraft bomb North Korea.

27 July 1953 Armistice

Armistice signed at Panmunjon. Korea remains divided and, as no peace treaty has been signed, technically still at war.



CRUEL CAPTIVITY
POWs often suffered
torture and starvation

PRISONERS OF WAR

More than 1,000 British servicemen were captured. Of these, 82 never returned home, presumed dead. Some of those taken prisoner had previously been prisoners during World War II, and at least one had been a prisoner of the Japanese in Korea.

Although things later improved, in the first year of the war the food, accommodation and medical assistance for prisoners was completely inadequate and the majority of deaths happened during this period. Prisoners were also subjected to attempts to convert them to communism. Lengthy political lectures were commonplace, while those who dissented could be subjected to punishments ranging from the withholding of mail to torture.

In the event, one soldier, a Royal Marine, elected to remain in North Korea while about 40 soldiers returned to Britain as convinced communists – although a number of those were already of that political viewpoint before they were taken prisoner. Disagreements about the forcible repatriation of prisoners of war was one of the reasons why peace negotiations dragged on for so long.

hostilities. The Glosters and the Royal Artillery mortar troop, which supported them, were awarded an American Presidential Citation for their actions. Part of it read:

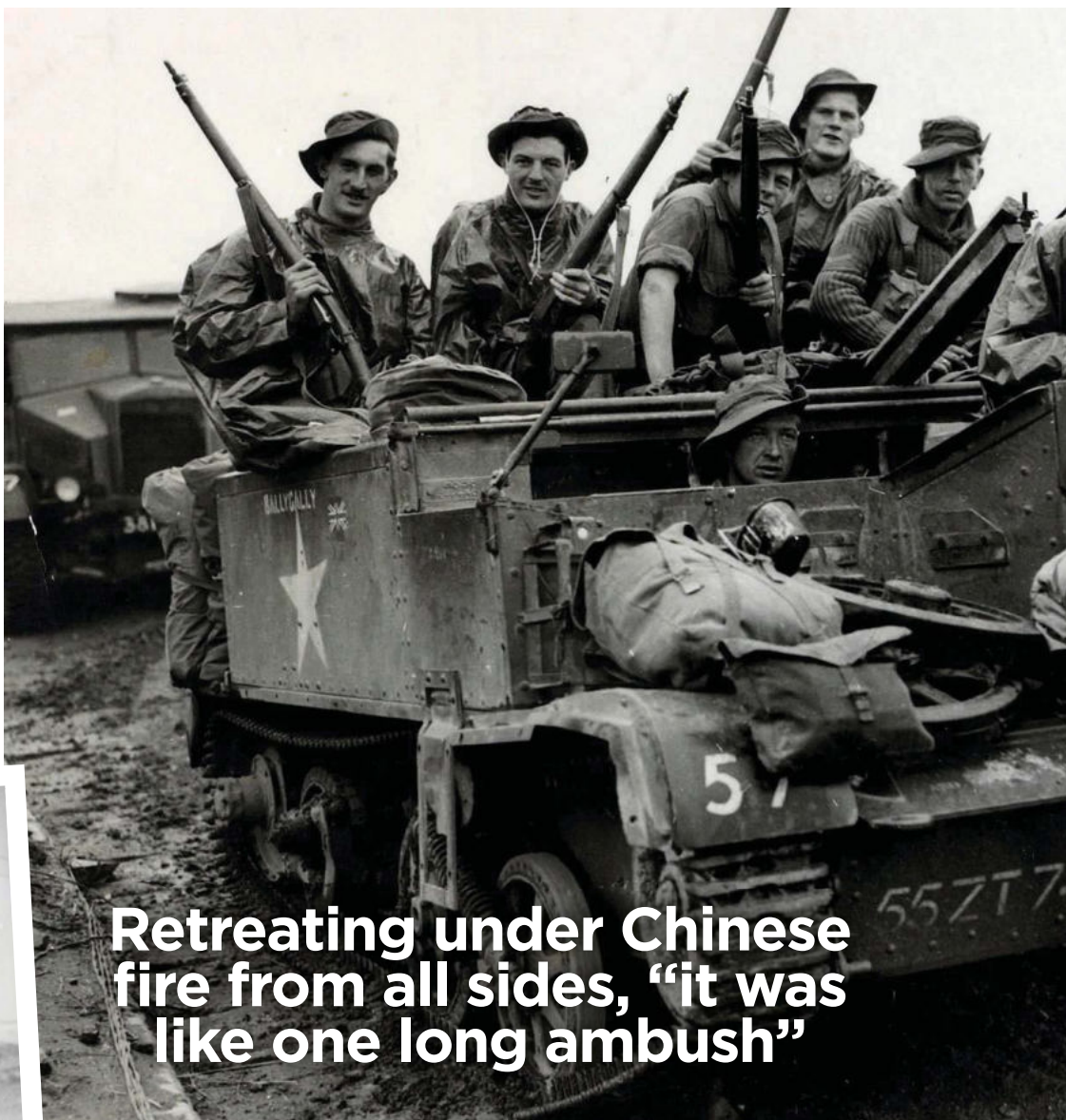
“Without thought of defeat or surrender this heroic force demonstrated a superb battlefield courage and discipline. Every yard of ground they surrendered was covered with enemy dead until the last gallant soldier of the fighting battalion was overpowered by the final surge of the enemy masses....”

LOSING GROUND

The Glosters' gallant stand has quite rightly gone down in history, but their defence was only part of an action that remains Britain's bloodiest battle since World War II. Helped by the Centurion tanks of the 8th Hussars, the rest of the brigade held its ground for as long as possible before breaking through the encircling Chinese in a fighting

withdrawal that was carried out under heavy fire from all sides. “It was like one long ambush,” one participant recalled. A quarter of the brigade had been killed, wounded or captured, including over 600 men from the Glosters. Chinese casualties have been estimated at 10,000.

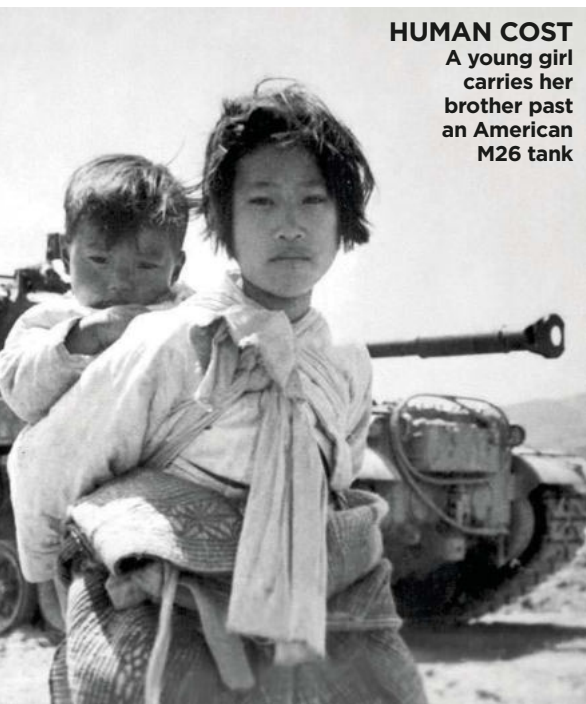
Meanwhile, further east, the 27th Brigade was also under attack. They too were guarding an important route to Seoul, this time along the Kapyong Valley. Once again, the Chinese attacked in great numbers and infiltrated the UN positions under cover of darkness. Two battalions, one Australian and one Canadian, bore the brunt of the assault and, in a hard-fought battle, prevented the Chinese from breaking through. The determined resistance of the two British brigades had seriously disrupted the Chinese offensive, causing it to lose momentum and allowing UN forces in the area to withdraw to a new line of defence north of Seoul, where the Chinese were halted.



Retreating under Chinese fire from all sides, “it was like one long ambush”



TURNING RED
Some British and
American POWs
embraced
communism



HUMAN COST
A young girl carries her brother past an American M26 tank

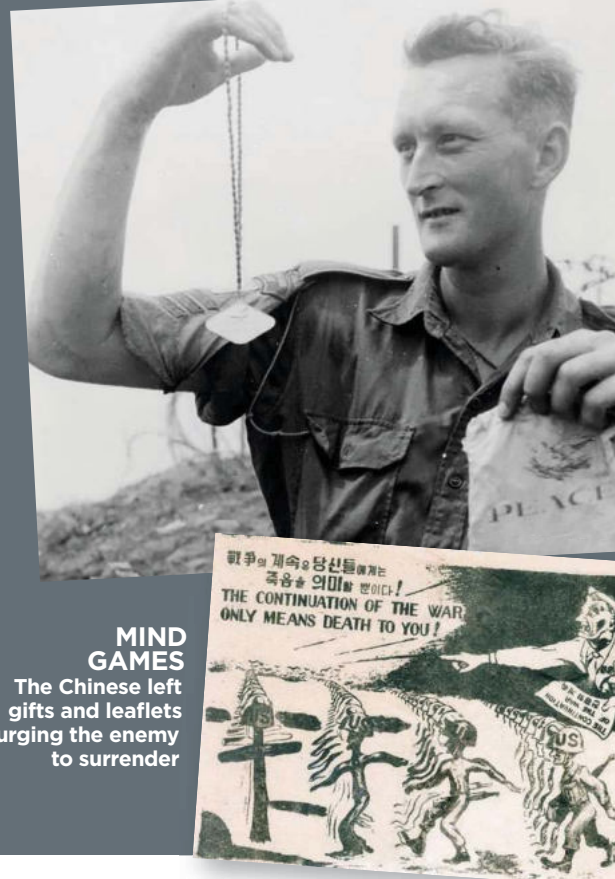


HILL HEROES
The Gloucestershire Regiment who fought valiantly to defend Hill 235

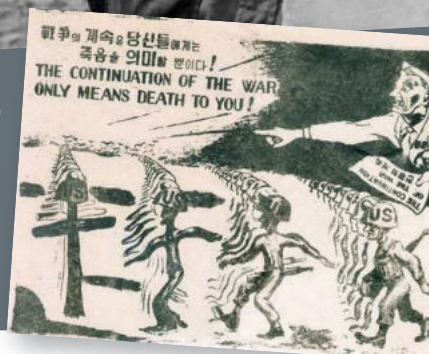
PROPAGANDA BATTLE

Both sides made use of propaganda during the war, but the Chinese were the busiest. They left out leaflets for patrols to find or fired them into UN positions. They produced safe conduct passes, offering good treatment to anyone who surrendered. Huge banners were hung out bearing messages like "Britons ought to make friends with us", and on Christmas Day 1952, the British found parts of No Man's Land festooned with leaflets, Christmas cards and gifts.

The Chinese hoped to persuade troops to surrender, or at least to refuse to fight, but on the whole the British regarded their activities with amusement – and also as a source of souvenirs. Particularly popular were small porcelain peace doves, which the Chinese would pin to the gifts they left out in No Man's Land. British soldiers liked to collect them and wear them, not as symbols of peace but as proof that they'd been out on patrol.



MIND GAMES
The Chinese left gifts and leaflets urging the enemy to surrender



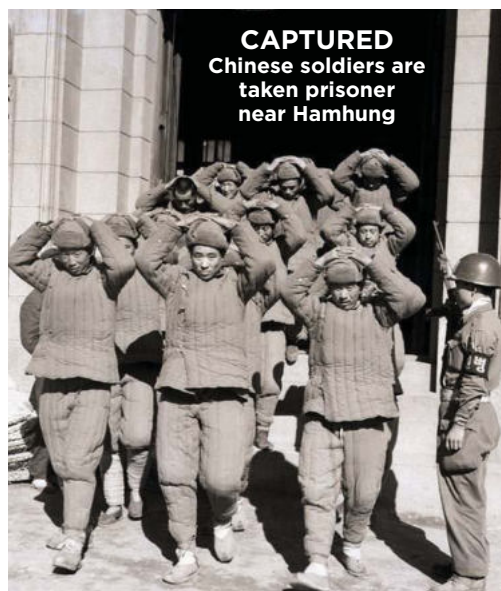
After the failure of the Chinese offensive, the front line stabilised near to where the fighting had started in the first place, the 38th Parallel, with the Commonwealth Division now dug in along a front of about eight miles. Even in this 'static' phase of the war, the Chinese and North Koreans would often attempt to infiltrate between UN positions before surrounding them and charging in with fixed bayonets, sub-machine guns and grenades. Activity was particularly intense at the 'Hook', a British-held feature that jutted forward into enemy lines, where the Chinese would often attack in the hope of gaining some advantage that would strengthen their hand at the peace talks that were being held at Panmunjon. In

May 1953, over 20,000 Chinese shells landed on the positions of the 1st Battalion Duke of Wellington's Regiment in a single week.

The Chinese were not the only enemy that the British had to face in Korea; the climate was equally menacing. A trooper from the Royal Tank Regiment later commented that Korea had "an arctic winter, a tropical summer, and a monsoon season, and the place is absolutely infested with snakes, frogs and crickets". Its temperature ranged from 40°C in the summer to minus 40°C in the winter. During the winter of 1950, one Royal Engineers unit lost a third of its number through frost-bite or pneumonia.

By the time a ceasefire agreement was eventually signed in July 1953, it is thought that 3 million Koreans, both soldier and civilian, had lost their lives during the war. North Korean cities and towns had been utterly flattened by American bombing, and massacres and atrocities had been committed by both sides. Chinese fatalities have been estimated at 600,000, while the USA reported 37,000 dead. As for the British, around 4,500 soldiers were killed, wounded or captured.

To this day Korea remains a divided country. Its border remains the most heavily militarised frontier in the world and, as no peace treaty has ever been signed, the two sides are technically still at war. 🇰🇷



CAPTURED
Chinese soldiers are taken prisoner near Hamhung

GET HOOKED

VISIT

The Korean War room in the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum in Gloucester Docks features Korean war artefacts plus an audio-visual display featuring some of the soldiers who fought at the Imjin River in 1951. www.soldiersofglos.com

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PIONEER SPIRIT

Katherine Johnson and her fellow black mathematicians overcame oppression and discrimination to help put Americans in space

HIDDEN FIGURES

The astronauts may have been the heroes, but it was a group of black women crunching the numbers that won the space race for the US, reveals **Jonny Wilkes**



MATHS MASTERY

LEFT: Astronaut John Glenn meets Katherine Johnson (Taraji P Henson), without whose trajectory calculations he refused to take off
 ABOVE: Johnson also did the calculations for the Moon landing and Apollo 13's rescue

John Glenn, one of the Mercury Seven astronauts, prepares to go into space and do something no American has done before – orbit the Earth.

NASA has planned the flight for months, with every detail meticulously checked and re-checked, rigorous testing carried out on the spacecraft, Friendship 7, and newly installed computers running the tens of thousands of complex calculations.

Yet Glenn will not be happy until the trajectories have been verified, by hand, by a particular person. What's more, the brilliant mathematician he wants is an African-American woman. "Get the girl to check the numbers," he demands, referring to Katherine Johnson. "If she says they're good, I'm ready to go." Johnson gives the okay and the launch goes ahead on 20 February 1962.

This scene from *Hidden Figures* sounds like a truth-stretching, Hollywood-style dramatisation, but it actually happened (with a slight change to how close to launch Glenn made his demand). The 'girl' Johnson,

FILMOLOGY

Release date: 2016

Director:
Theodore Melfi

Cast:
Taraji P Henson, Octavia Spencer, Janelle Monáe, Kevin Costner, Jim Parsons, Glen Powell, Mahershala Ali

Fast fact: Margot Lee Shetterly was inspired to write *Hidden Figures* as her father had worked at Langley. She spent her childhood with NASA employees, most of them black.

actually 43 years old at the time, had faced entrenched racism and sexism, and made herself indispensable in the quest to put men into space. And hers is just one of the inspirational stories of women, many black, at NASA at the time. Their little-known efforts finally received the recognition they deserve in Margot Lee Shetterly's book, on which the award-winning film is based.

OPPRESSION AND OPPORTUNITY

Hidden Figures is set in the early 1960s, at a time when the nuclear shadow of the Cold War loomed and, since Sputnik in 1957, the Soviets were winning the Space Race, the contest for missile superiority minus the bloodshed.

Away from global conflict, this was also a time of segregation. Institutional systems of racism kept black Americans as second-

class citizens – denying them the vote and basic civil rights – and permeated all levels of society. Every day brought humiliations and oppression, from using different water fountains and children having to attend other schools to beatings, abuse and worse.

One place, however, offered opportunities to educated black women: the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, precursor to NASA. During World War II, the combination



SPRINT FOR SPACE

The Sputnik satellite put Russia way ahead of the US in the space race

of both a high demand for aircraft and the low number of male engineers and mathematicians not fighting had led President Roosevelt to prohibit discrimination in the defence industry. NACA began hiring both white and black female mathematicians at Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, to be 'computers', crunching the numbers for advanced aerospace travel with pen and paper.

For highly intelligent black women, being 'computers who wore skirts' promised a better career and higher pay than the next best thing, teaching. At a time when they could not sit at the front of the bus, they could help send rockets into space.

Langley proved a more progressive environment than most too, although the black employees still worked in a segregated building and used a separate dining room and toilets. Whereas white computers could stay in a dormitory on campus, black mathematicians had to live in communities many miles away. The 'West Area Computers', as they became known, had to be tenacious in pursuing their careers and courageous in standing up to prejudice. The *Hidden Figures* book recounts how Miriam Mann took down the 'Colored Computers' sign from the cafeteria, and would purloin each new replacement until the sign stopped reappearing.

Then in 1958 – in the aftermath of Sputnik, the first human-made satellite launched by the Russians – NACA turned into NASA and segregation at Langley was abolished. That did not mean an end to discrimination, as black employees had to continue showing fortitude and resilience to do their jobs.

EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN

Three such exceptional women are the focus of *Hidden Figures*. Dorothy Vaughan (played in the film by Octavia Spencer), who had graduated from university in 1929 aged just 19, joined NACA during World War II. She expected the job to be temporary, but she soon grew into a leader of the West Area Computers. In 1949, Vaughan became head of the unit – making her the first black supervisor at NASA.

In the film, this achievement is pushed back to the 1960s, by which time she had actually moved to the integrated Analysis and Computation Division. Vaughan fought for further promotions and explored electronic computing, teaching herself and her colleagues the programming language Fortran. This



LEADING FROM THE FRONT
INSET AND ABOVE CENTRE: **Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer)** was NASA's first black supervisor and an expert in the early coding language Fortran. Until 1958 she and her fellow black employees were made to work separately from their white counterparts
RIGHT: **Mary Jackson** became NASA's first black female engineer in 1958



“These women could not sit at the front of the bus, but they could help send rockets into space”



TRUE GRIT

RIGHT: Jackson (Janelle Monáe, above) already held two degrees yet needed special permission to attend a segregated college to become an engineer



“Any upward movement is movement for us all”

PRECISION MISSION

BELOW: Johnson doing the calculations for Friendship 7, the 1962 mission that put the first American in space. Her precision was key both in launching and in safely returning astronauts to Earth



< established her place in the nascent digital age. “I changed what I could, and what I couldn’t, I endured,” she later remarked.

Mary Jackson (played by Janelle Monáe) reported to Vaughan when she went to Langley in 1951. When on an assignment involving a high-powered wind tunnel, she met senior aeronautical research engineer Kazimierz Czarnecki (changed to Karl Zielinski in *Hidden Figures*), who encouraged her to be an engineer. “If you were a white male, would you wish to be an engineer?” Jackson is asked in the film, to which she gives the impassioned reply: “I wouldn’t have to, I’d already be one.”

Although holding degrees in mathematics and physical science, Jackson needed to take graduate courses to fulfil this dream. They were only offered in a segregated school though, so she petitioned the City of Hampton for special permission to attend. Never wavering, she went through the stigma of being a black woman in a whites-only school, completed the courses and became NASA’s first black female engineer in 1958.

Katherine Johnson (Taraji P Henson), born in 1918, had been a mathematical wunderkind. Her talent had become so clear that her father moved the family 120 miles from White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, for her education. Johnson graduated high school at 14, university at 18 and, in 1938, became one of three students to desegregate West Virginia’s state college. After spells as a teacher and stay-at-home mother, she went to NACA in 1953 (again, under Vaughan) and joined the Space Task Group.

In *Hidden Figures*, Johnson has to run around Langley to use the ‘colored’ bathroom, wasting valuable calculating time. When her boss Al Harrison (Kevin Costner) finds out, he takes a crowbar to

the sign and announces “Here at NASA, we all pee the same colour”. It makes for a fun and symbolic scene, but it never happened. In many ways, the truth says more about Johnson’s character – she just used the white women’s bathroom by accident and, when eventually told to stop, ignored the complaints.

On the Mercury Project, Johnson calculated the trajectory for Alan Shepard’s flight on 5 May 1961, when he became the first American in space. That success spurred NASA on to John Glenn’s orbital mission in February 1962, which involved electronic computers for the first time. As many, including Glenn himself, felt uneasy about trusting the new IBM 7090s, Johnson was asked to confirm the numbers.

She worked long hours, away from her three children and second husband Jim Johnson, and had to argue to be permitted into briefings. A memorable moment in *Hidden Figures* comes when Johnson is told there is no protocol for women to attend such important meetings. “There’s no protocol for a man circling the Earth either, sir,” is her retort. When Glenn completed three orbits, despite hitting a snag on re-entry, the advantage in the Space Race swung to the US.

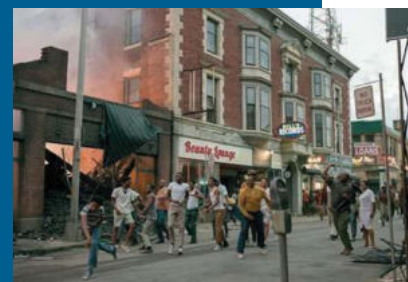
ILLUSTRIOUS CAREERS

That marks the finale of *Hidden Figures*, but not of the illustrious careers of these three women. Vaughan made valuable contributions to the Scout Launch Vehicle Program, placing satellites in orbit, as well as raising six children (including a future NASA employee). Jackson spent her career helping other black women advance, eventually taking a demotion to be Federal Women’s Program Manager in 1979

Civil rights in the 1960s

4 Little Girls (1997)

Spike Lee’s gut-wrenching documentary revolves around the 1963 bombing of a black church in Alabama, which killed four teenage girls. A hard-hitting account of one the movement’s defining tragedies.



Detroit captures a dark chapter in US history

Detroit (2017)

During riots in Detroit in 1967, security guard Melvin Dismukes (the always impressive John Boyega) gets caught up in a violent and deadly incident at the Algiers Motel.

Selma (2014)

David Oyelowo’s towering performance as Martin Luther King elevates this drama about the 1965 voting rights marches.

so as to better improve conditions for the next generation.

Johnson calculated for the Apollo missions – plotting trajectories for the 1969 Moon landing and helping formulate the plan to save Apollo 13 – and the Shuttle. By the time she retired in 1986, she had authored or co-authored 26 research projects. In 2015, President Obama awarded the 97-year-old with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the US and, the following year, Langley dedicated a new building in her honour.

Hidden Figures tells a compelling, inspirational and heartening story that needed to be told, about remarkable people almost lost to history. Not everything in it can be described as rigidly historically accurate: the film compresses decades of events into a year or so; wrongly suggests Vaughan, Jackson and Johnson were close friends; and features some white characters who are in fact composites of several figures.

But those few liberties apart, the film pays the NASA mathematicians utter respect. Shetterly’s book offers a much more thorough look at the hundreds of women at NASA in the 1960s, but the film sensitively yet joyously tells the stories of three of these women, changing the world just by doing their job and working for the pride of a country that oppressed them. 📌



RECOGNITION AT LAST

Johnson continued to work at NASA until her retirement in 1986 RIGHT: Receiving the Medal of Freedom from President Obama, 2015



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What do you think of *Hidden Figures* – worthy of awards or historically flawed?

email: editor@historyrevealed.com



Why were cats so important in Ancient Egypt?



While the Ancient Egyptians depicted many gods and goddesses with the characteristics of different animals, they perhaps admired no creature more than the cat. So, if the internet is anything to go by, nothing much has changed.

But while we love moggies for their companionship, Egyptian society fell in love with them for their skills at keeping the snake, rat, mice and scorpion populations down. As a sign of how highly they regarded cat hunting skills, the cat-headed goddess Mafdet (who goes back to the fourth millennium BC) was thought to protect people and their homes against these dangerous or food-spoiling pests. Mafdet would later be replaced by Bastet, and the city of Bubastis became a centre of worship for this goddess of cats. Hundreds of thousands descended on the temple there every year for the festival of Bast, which the visiting Greek historian Herodotus described as one of the most popular in all of Egypt.

Cats appeared in art, always in a position of respect, and were domesticated into loving members of a family – so much so that they would be mourned and mummified after they died. Killing one could be punishable by death. According to legend, at the Battle of Pelusium in 525 BC, the Persian soldiers carried cats in front of them, knowing that the Egyptian archers would not fire, in fear of harming the beloved felines.

A MOGGY MUMMY

This mummified cat is at the British Museum, London



68

The number of years that the papacy resided in Avignon instead of Rome in the 14th century. Seven popes reigned during that period.



NEVER IN REDOUBT
The redcoats were pushed back behind a makeshift redoubt

How many British soldiers died at **Rorke's Drift**?

What makes the against-the-odds victory for the British at the Battle of Rorke's Drift so impressive is the numbers involved. The army fighting in South Africa had more disciplined training and modern equipment than the Zulus, and easily had superior firepower at most engagements, but only 150 redcoats were garrisoned at the mission station of Rorke's Drift when a 4,000-strong enemy force attacked. And many of them were sick or wounded.

Yet B Company, 2nd Battalion, 24th (2nd Warwickshire) Regiment and the Royal Engineers held out for 12 hours from 22 to 23 January 1879 before finally forcing the Zulus to retreat. From behind their rudimentary barricades of

biscuit boxes, crates of tinned meat and 'mealie' (maize) bags, they fired so much ammunition that out of an initial reserve of 20,000 rounds, only 900 remained.

The defence of Rorke's Drift, immortalised in the 1964 epic *Zulu*, claimed the lives of 17 British soldiers with most men wounded. Compare that to around 800 to 1,000 Zulu dead or wounded, and the extraordinary scale of the Zulu defeat becomes clear. The final number that stands out relates to the Victoria Crosses awarded – 11 overall, and seven to the 24th Regiment, which is the most achieved by a regiment in a single action.

WHAT WAS THE **ATOM BOWL**?

On 9 August 1945, a few days after the world's first use of a nuclear weapon at Hiroshima, the atom bomb Fat Man was dropped on Nagasaki. Yet, only a few months later, victorious US Marines had been put on the ground in the obliterated Japanese city – and while they showed little concern for radiation, morale was understandably low. To pick up his men's spirits, one commanding officer arranged a game of American football for New Year's Day 1946.

The 'Atom Bowl', played on a pitch "carved out of dust and rubble" and surrounded by devastated buildings, had to be two-hand touch rather than full contact, due to the glass and debris littering the ground. Still, several thousand came to watch as the so-called Isahaya Tigers (led by professional player 'Bullet' Bill Osmanski) defeated the Nagasaki Bears (whose star Angelo Bertelli had won the sport's coveted Heisman Trophy) with a final score of 14–13.



WIRELESS COMMUNICATION
A replica of Harald Bluetooth's runes



Where does the name '**Bluetooth**' come from?

The wireless technology is ubiquitous (and not at all related to strangely coloured incisors) in today's digital world, but the name is a millennium old. Harald Gormsson, as king of Denmark and Norway, is remembered for uniting the countries in the 10th century. He is also famous for his nickname, Blátand (or Bluetooth), as he supposedly had one dead, discoloured chomper in his mouth.

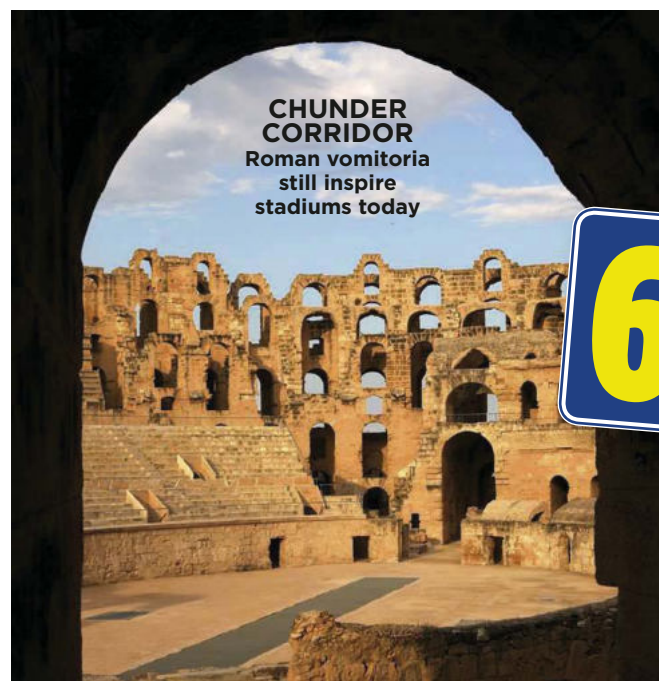
In the 1990s, an Intel engineer named Jim Kardach read a book about the Viking king, at the same time as he worked on wireless technology that would allow various devices to communicate – or, to put it another way, unite them. So when a name was needed, the first thing to jump into his head was Bluetooth. The name stuck and inspired the logo, which is of Gormsson's initials in runes.



FROM BOMB TO BOWL
The devastating bombing of Nagasaki inspired the name of a rather unusual game

DID ROMANS REALLY HAVE VOMITORIUMS?

Yes, but maybe not in the form you think. It has long been said that Ancient Romans would gorge themselves until they had to adjourn to a special room to vomit, after which they would return to the feast. Yet, while the wealthiest Romans certainly had no qualm about eating until they were sick, such a room never existed. The *vomitorium* was actually nothing more than a corridor at a stadium or amphitheatre by which the thousands of spectators exited, or 'spewed forth' into the streets as the name suggests. The Colosseum, which had an estimated capacity of 50,000, could empty in minutes thanks to the *vomitoria*.



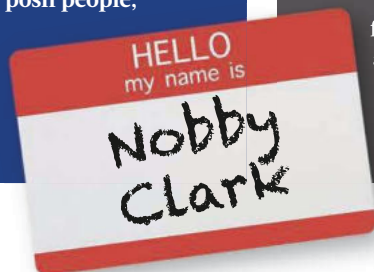
CHUNDER CORRIDOR
Roman vomitoria still inspire stadiums today

661

The height difference, in metres, between the world's tallest building in 1901, Philadelphia City Hall (167m), and today, the Burj Khalifa in Dubai (828m).

When did Clark start to be preceded by 'Nobby'?

If your surname is Clark then you may have been called 'Nobby' once or twice. One tenuous origin is that medieval monks would get callouses from long days doing calligraphy, making them nobby clerks. The more likely explanation is that clerks in Victorian London aspired to join higher-class company, so dressed and acted as if they belonged among posh people, which were known as nobs by the poor. Supposedly, the type of bowler they wore became known as 'nobby', so the image of a nobby clerk starts to emerge.



BARREL OF FUN
Annie Edson Taylor was the first person – but the cat beat her down the falls



WHO WAS THE FIRST TO GO OVER NIAGARA FALLS IN A BARREL?

There were no cakes covered in candles, presents of slippers or a family get-together singing *Happy Birthday* when Annie Edson Taylor turned 63 years old on 24 October 1901. Instead, the impoverished American schoolteacher hoped to find fame and fortune – by becoming the first person to go over the Niagara Falls in a barrel.

Taylor got the unusual idea for her get-rich-quick scheme after reading about daredevils riding the whirlpool rapids at the bottom of the falls. But she wanted to go even bigger. So

she marked her birthday (although she told everyone she was in her 40s) by clambering inside a custom-built pickle barrel, padded with a mattress and weighted to keep it upright, and willingly put her life in mortal danger. A few days earlier, she had tested the barrel on a cat, who lived but probably never trusted her again.

Taylor also survived the 51-metre drop with nothing more than bruises and a cut to the head, but she hardly enjoyed her birthday treat, saying: "I would sooner walk up to the mouth of a cannon, knowing it was going to blow me to pieces than make another trip over the fall."

Why do we throw salt over our left shoulder?

For the superstitious out there, spilling salt is regarded as bad luck and the only remedy is to throw a pinch more over the left shoulder. The practice may have its roots in ancient civilisations, when salt was an expensive commodity – Roman soldiers could be paid with it – so to spill any would be extremely wasteful.

This, in turn, could have influenced a Christian belief that spilling salt was a bad omen of the devil's presence, who always lurked behind a person's left shoulder, so a pinch had to be thrown to blind him. The link between everyone's favourite chip flavouring and evil can be seen in Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*, where Judas (the man who betrayed Jesus Christ) has knocked over the salt with his elbow.



A SUPERSTITION WITH FLAVOUR
What should you do if you spill the salt? Throw away some more

HAS A WOMAN EVER BEEN MADE A 'KING'?

Quite a few times. It should come as no surprise that the title for a female ruler has historically been seen as inferior or weak, so women have chosen the masculine term. Several Ancient Egyptians, notably Hatshepsut, believed it would strengthen their position, which was the same motivation for Tamar of Georgia when she became *mepe* (king) in 1184 and, even as late as 1741, when Maria Theresa ruled as King of Hungary. Other times, the term *rex* has been given to women as there was no precedent for a female ruler. In the 14th century, two young girls, Jadwiga and Mary, were crowned King of Poland and Hungary respectively. It went even further for Christina of Sweden, who was raised as a prince, with the full education that came with it, before she came to the throne in 1632.



GIRL KING
Christina of Sweden was raised as a boy

WHEN AND WHERE WAS FANTA INVENTED?

The first bubbles and thirst-quenching slurps of the fizzy orange soda did not come in Atlanta, the headquarters of the Coca-Cola Company that owns Fanta, or even in America at all. In fact, the answer to where the drink was invented you may *Nazi* coming.

In the years leading up to World War II, efforts to make Coke as popular in Europe as it was in the US had one major success – Germany. The company sold millions of crates to the country every year, opened dozens of factories and sponsored the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. Yet this brought them perilously close to Hitler's regime.

When the war broke out and Allied countries introduced trade embargoes, however, the ingredients to make the secret Coke syrup could no longer reach Germany. Max Keith, the head of the company there, decided to create a new drink to keep the factories open. Using what he described as scraps and leftovers – such as whey from cheese manufacture and apple fibre from cider presses – he concocted a brew, resembling ginger ale.

As the story goes, Keith then asked his employees for ideas of how to name the drink, instructing them to let their "fantasies" run wild, to which one

salesman quickly suggested Fanta. It became a commercial hit, selling around 3 million cases in 1943.

While rumours have since bubbled up that Fanta had been invented by the Nazis, or to sell to the Nazis, Keith's aim always seemed to be to the preservation of the Coca-Cola Company (even at the expense of his own safety).



Thanks to readers Richard Ives, Tony Clark and Vikki Lane for their questions

NOW SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS



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HISTORY

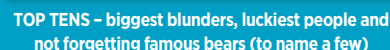
REVEALED Bringing the past to life



What is the earliest-known photograph?
Was tarring and feathering fatal?
How big was Henry VIII's codpiece?

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- Rare photographs and images of artefacts
- Fun facts, titbits and curios from history



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ON OUR RADAR

A guide to what's happening in
the world of history over
the coming weeks



The King's Army marches
down the Mall to the slow
and steady beat of the
military drums



Cavalry, standards and
all manner of weapon,
from musket to cannon,
will be on display

REENACTMENT

King's Army Annual March and Parade

St James Palace, London, 28 January
bit.ly/2Bnee55

The English Civil War Society will be making its yearly march from St James Palace to Banqueting House in Whitehall, recreating the route taken by King Charles I on his way to his execution. Beginning at 11am, the dramatic reenactment, with everyone in proper military attire, includes a wreath-laying ceremony and service at the site of the beheading.

**King Charles I
lost his head on
a cold January
day in 1649**

WHAT'S ON

Our guide to upcoming
events includes Meryl
Streep in *The Post*p79



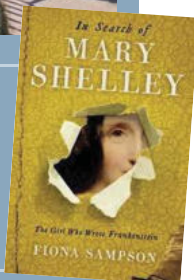
BRITAIN'S TREASURES

The Pontcysyllte
Aqueduct.....p84



BOOK REVIEWS

Our look at
the best new
releases....p86



POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

Your best photos of
historical landmarks..p90



THOMAS FELZMANN XI, ALAMY X3

THEATRE

War Horse

Oxford New Theatre until 6 January,
Brighton Centre from 25 January to 10 February,
then dates around the UK throughout 2018.
Tickets from £20 www.warhorseonstage.com

As part of a nationwide tour, the award-winning National Theatre adaptation of Michael Morpurgo's heartbreaking novel, *War Horse*, comes to Oxford and Brighton this January. In the chaos of World War I, a young man named Albert is separated from his horse, sending him on a perilous quest to the front lines to find his beloved Joey. Featuring ground-breaking puppetry, the acclaimed production moves, entertains and inspires in equal measure. A truly monumental work.



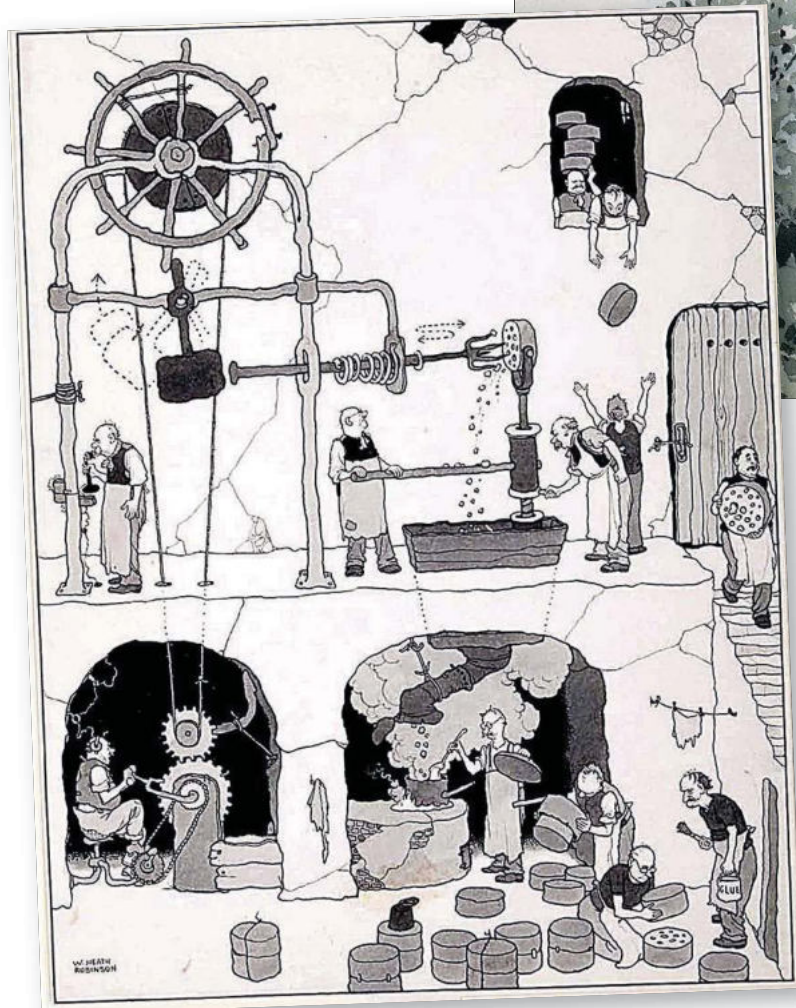
EXHIBITION

Heath Robinson: Dreams and Machines

Mottisfont, Hampshire, from 20 January
bit.ly/2nkLCaK

The famous English illustrator W Heath Robinson, nicknamed the 'Gadget King', is perhaps best remembered for his drawings of eccentric, highly intricate machinery. Having been trained at the Royal Academy, his talents went much further than his contraptions, though. This exhibition displays 60 of his works, ranging from comic illustrations to the more idyllic watercolour paintings.

**From landscapes to novel
cheese-making machines, see
the best of a 20th-century great**



**"I really have
a secret
satisfaction
in being
considered
rather mad"**

Heath Robinson

A visit to Sergeant Ewart is included in your ticket to Edinburgh Castle



EVENT

From Waterside to Waterloo

Edinburgh Castle,
6-7 and 20-21 January
bit.ly/2nfHSHj

Meet Sergeant Charles Ewart, a Scottish hero of the Napoleonic Wars, and hear his tales of courage, glory and despair in battle. In particular, he'll tell you of the time he risked his life to capture the standard from one of the regiments of Napoleon's army at the 1815 Battle of Waterloo.



Tom Hanks, Meryl Streep and Steven Spielberg – sounds good already!

FILM

The Post

In cinemas 19 January

The publication of the Pentagon Papers in 1971 rocked Americans' trust in the presidency and eroded support for the Vietnam War. In Steven Spielberg's latest historical drama, Meryl Streep stars as the first female newspaper publisher in the US, Kay Graham, and Tom Hanks as editor of *The Washington Post*, Ben Bradlee, as they fight, and risk everything, to reveal this massive government cover-up. With two stellar performances, *The Post* is yet another hit for some of the greatest names in cinema.

WORKSHOP

1950s Vintage Accessories

Lady Lever Art Gallery, Liverpool,
20 January. Book at bit.ly/2nliosG

Get your creative juices flowing by making your own '50s-inspired accessories. Bring along your old hats, scarves and any trinkets you'd like to jazz up into a retro item, and raid the customisation materials box to find your perfect piece.



Make yourself a piece of fifties flair

TALK

Surviving the Holocaust with Lady Zahava Kohn

The National Archives, Kew, London, 26 January. Admission is free, but register at bit.ly/2AE5Fuc

After the SS captured Zahava Kohn and her family in 1943, they spent nearly two years imprisoned in Nazi concentration camps. Yet, somehow, they all survived. Now, over 70 years later, she shares her fascinating and harrowing story. Kohn's daughter will also speak, helping to show how the horrors of the Holocaust impacted the next generation.

The scene at Ravensbruck concentration camp, as drawn by Violette Lecoq

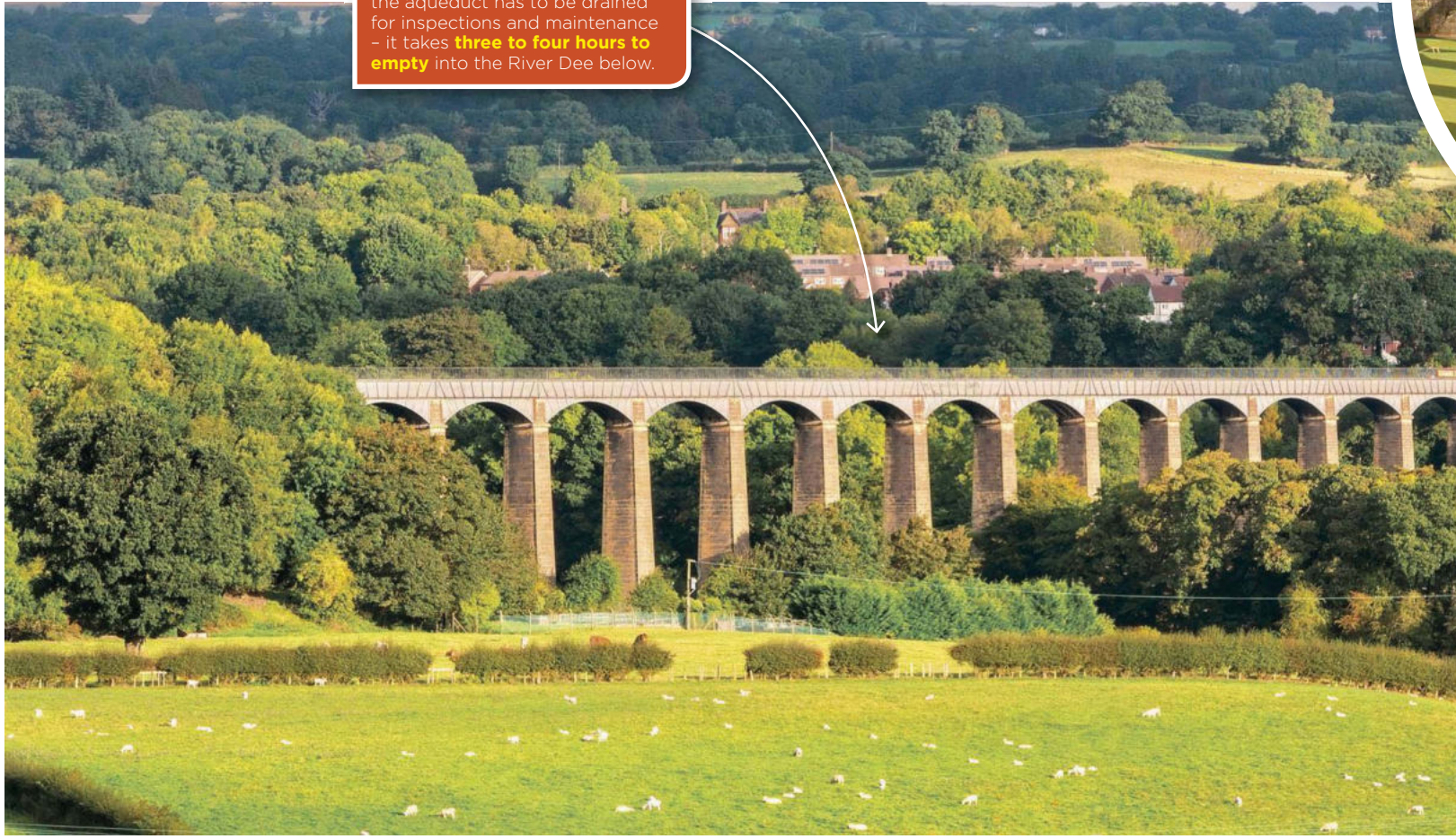


▶ ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- ▶ **Working for Victory** – find out how Welsh men and women supported the war effort. From 22 January, National Slate Museum bit.ly/2As22Ds
- ▶ **Raising Horizons** – this exhibition celebrates female geologists of the 19th century. From 11 January, University of York Archaeology Department bit.ly/2niLgRS

RAINING DOWN

The Ponty holds around 1.5 million litres of water. Every five years, the aqueduct has to be drained for inspections and maintenance – it takes **three to four hours to empty** into the River Dee below.



BRITAIN'S TREASURES...

PONTCYSYLLTE AQUEDUCT

Llangollen Canal, Wrexham

Whether looking up at the 19 arches or staring from on high at the countryside, the engineering marvels of the 'stream in the sky' are there for all to behold

GETTING THERE:

Postcode: LL20 7TY. By car, follow the brown signs on the A539. Buses run from Wrexham and Chirk.

**OPENING TIMES****AND PRICES:**

From Easter to October, open every day; November to December and March to Easter, open Friday to Sunday; 10am-4pm. The visitor centre is free.

FIND OUT MORE:

Contact the Canal & River Trust by ringing 0303 040 4040 or visit canalrivertrust.org.uk

High above the River Dee, a monumental feat of civil engineering has stood for more than two centuries as a testament to the Industrial Revolution – a human-made titan in the countryside of North Wales.

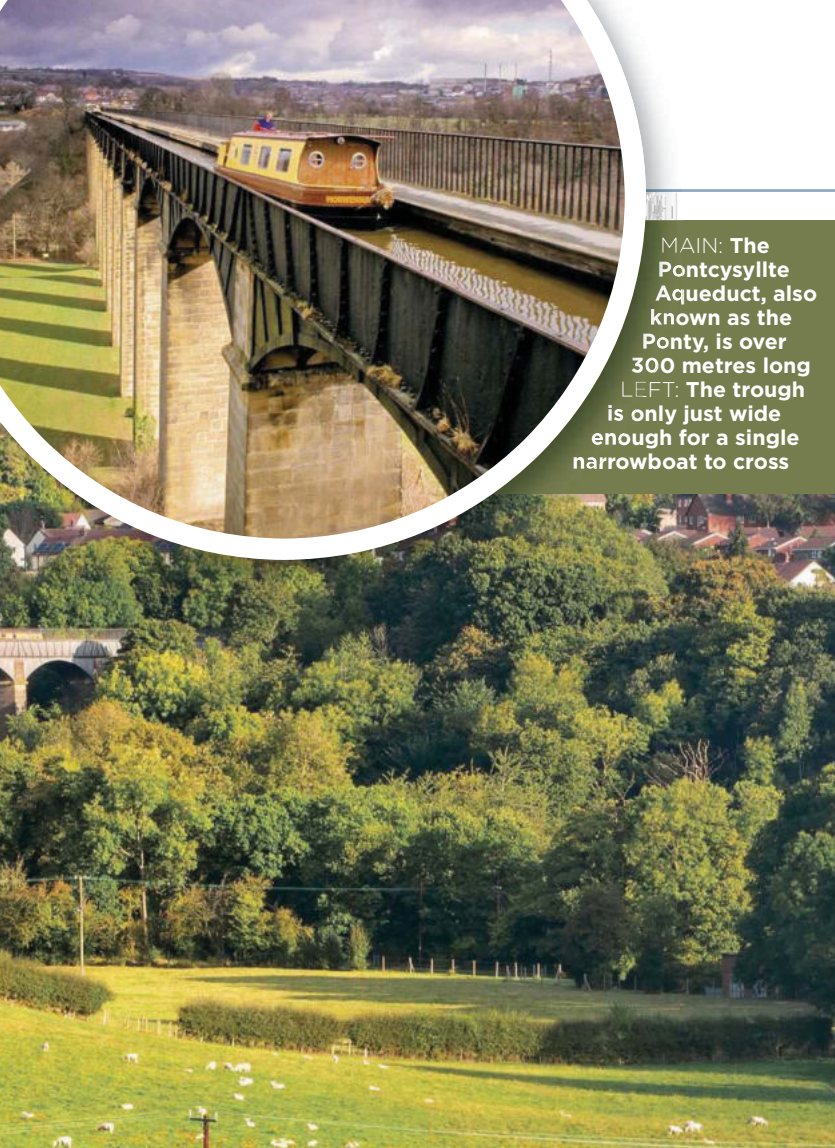
The slender 307-metre-long Pontcysyllte Aqueduct carries the Llangollen Canal, at its highest point, 38 metres up from the valley floor (that's around eight double-decker buses stacked on top of each other). It is little wonder that the boaters who drift slowly across and the

walkers braving the towpath are still drawn to the 'Ponty' for its panoramic views.

It had been intended for more than a viewpoint, though. When construction got underway in the 1790s, it was a golden age of canal building – before railroads, waterways were the veins pumping materials around the country and powering industrial progress. The aqueduct was to form part of the new Ellesmere Canal to connect the mineral-rich areas of Wales with factories in the Midlands and Liverpool's docks.

A relatively unknown engineer and architect, Thomas Telford, was chosen to build the Ellesmere, under the supervision of the much more experienced William Jessop. Telford quickly demonstrated the innovative thinking and ambition for which he would later become renowned. Instead of sticking to the original plans for a series of locks going down both sides of the valley, he proposed the aqueduct should cut right across so that the water remained level.

His 'stream in the sky' consisted of cast-iron plates for the water-



MAIN: The Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, also known as the Ponty, is over 300 metres long
LEFT: The trough is only just wide enough for a single narrowboat to cross

WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



TREVOR BASIN

At the free visitor centre, discover more about the aqueduct's construction and children can enjoy games and puzzles. Recently, a floating café has opened.



BOAT RIDE

A number of companies offer trips on both motorised and horse-drawn boats along the Llangollen Canal, the highlight being a crossing of the Ponty.



CHIRK AQUEDUCT

Thomas Telford completed another aqueduct just a few miles from the Ponty in 1801. Enjoy the view before heading into the 365-metre tunnel at the north end.



HORSESHOE FALLS

A two-mile country walk will get you to the weir built by Telford. Supplying millions of gallons a day, the falls kept the aqueduct open when the canal closed.

“A human-made titan in the countryside of North Wales”

filled trough and 18 stone pillars (partly hollow to keep the weight down) held together by a mortar of lime, water and ox blood. It cost around £47,000 (around £3.5m today) and took ten years for Telford to complete the aqueduct, which officially opened on 26 November 1805.

BOATERS' FAVOURITE

By then, however, hopes for the Ellesmere had already changed. The money ran out, causing several sections of the routes to be abandoned before the aqueduct had even been finished. The adjacent Trevor Basin became the end of the line and Telford had to create an artificial weir, known as the Horseshoe Falls, just to supply it with water.

Yet the Ponty remained open throughout the 19th century and was acquired to become part of another canal, the Shropshire Union. But despite a temporary resurgence during World War I – when the waterway boasted a fleet of 450 narrowboats transporting materials for the war effort – the canal's use declined. It closed in 1944, and fell into disrepair without maintenance. This led to the canal breaching its banks, on 6 September 1945, which damaged a rail line and caused a mail and goods train to crash, killing one.

Again, however, the aqueduct survived the closure as it had new uses, acting as a water feeder for another section and supplying drinking water to a reservoir.

And as holiday boating grew in popularity, the magnificence of the Ponty's structure, and not forgetting the stunning views, made it a favourite for visitors to the renamed Llangollen Canal.

That is a status that the oldest and longest navigable aqueduct in Britain – and the highest in the world – has maintained to this day. As well as being grade I listed, it has been established as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A trip to the Ponty should begin at the visitor centre at Trevor Basin, which is free, before crossing the aqueduct. This can be done either on foot or by taking a horse-drawn boat ride. A warning to anyone suffering from problems with heights, though: the sights are spectacular, but not for the faint-hearted. 📍

WHY NOT VISIT...

Within sight of the aqueduct

CHIRK CASTLE

Take a guided tour or stroll the gardens of the imposing medieval fortress, which formed part of Edward I's line of castles to subdue the Welsh. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chirk-castle

VALLE CRUCIS ABBEY

One of Wales's best-preserved victims of the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the abbey was founded in 1201 to house a community of Cistercian monks. cadw.gov.wales/daysout/vallecrucisabbey

LLANGOLLEN RAILWAY

Sit back and enjoy the sounds and smells as you ride through the picturesque Dee Valley on the volunteer-run steam train between Llangollen and Corwen. llangollen-railway.co.uk

BOOKS

This month's best historical reads

**BOOK
OF THE
MONTH**

Ryan Lavelle

CNUT

The North Sea King



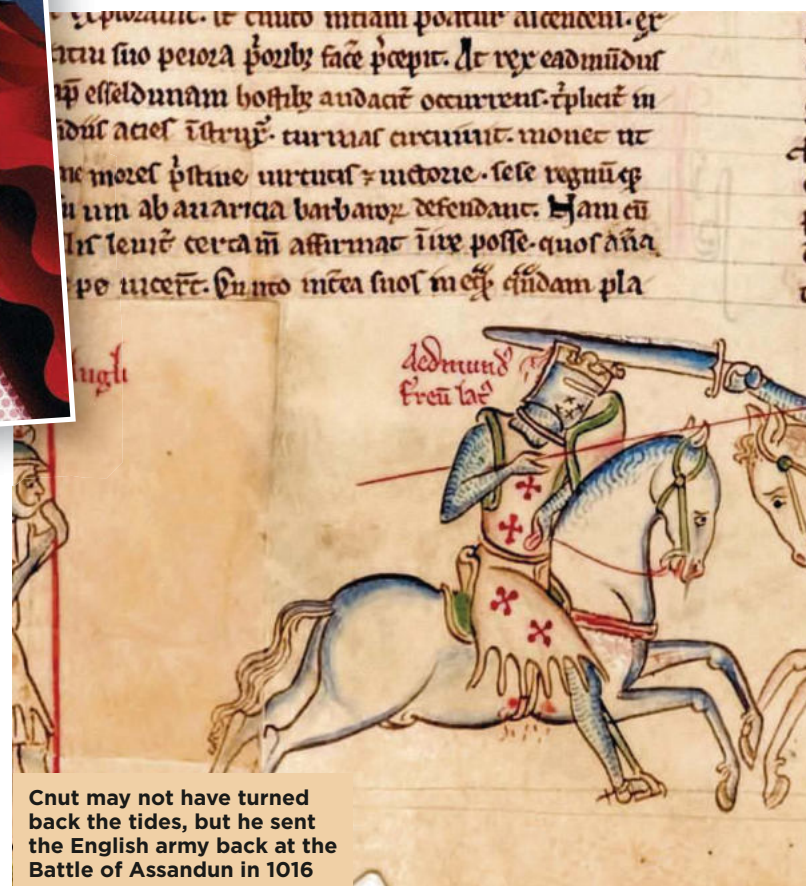
“The imperious nature of the king’s command to the rising sea is famous in the traditional narratives of English history”

Cnut: The North Sea King

By Ryan Lavelle

Allen Lane, £12.99, hardback, 128 pages

Cnut is a member of the unlucky band of historical figures whose entire existence is often reduced to a single, dubious story. No, the 11th-century king of England did not attempt to turn back the ocean waves – but, if that’s the case, what did he actually do? Lavelle aims to answer that question, providing a concise, readable overview of the life and times of the king. Rather than thinking of Cnut as a foolish would-be Moses, it suggests, we should instead see him as a determined monarch and an ambitious imperialist. Part of the attractive and eminently collectible *Penguin Monarchs* series, the book is being released alongside titles on George I and James I.



Cnut may not have turned back the tides, but he sent the English army back at the Battle of Assandun in 1016

MEET THE AUTHOR

Cnut may not have tried to stop the tide, but Anglo-Saxon historian **Ryan Lavelle** asserts that the story reveals something about the king's reign in England



The runes of the larger Jelling stone in Denmark celebrate the conquests of Cnut's grandfather, Harald Bluetooth



We've all heard of Cnut as the man who legendarily attempted to control the waves – but what do we know about him?

Cnut appears to have been a ruthless individual with a single-minded determination when he needed it. His conquest of England in 1016 shows real tenacity. Cnut had arrived in the country as a young man with his father, the Danish king Swein Forkbeard, in 1013. When the nobility quickly surrendered and the English king Æthelred the Unready went into exile, Swein was, by 1014, ready to be crowned king of England.

It looked as though all was set up for the Danish prince, but his plans went back to square one when Swein unexpectedly died, and the English nobility decided to recall Æthelred instead of accept Cnut. The Dane spent the next year involved in a series of conflicts, eventually carving up the kingdom with Æthelred's son, Edmund Ironside. It wasn't until Edmund's death in 1016 that Cnut won the throne and was elevated to be sole ruler.

What events and episodes defined Cnut's reign in England?

In the popular imagination, Cnut is famous for trying to stop waves coming into the shore, but this was a Norman-era imagining of Cnut as a maritime king. However, because the story is actually about Cnut's humility before God – he is, in fact, showing his followers that he has no control over the elements – it does reveal something about him as a Christian, rather than pagan, king.

This underpinned the way Cnut made the move from being a Viking conqueror to presenting himself as an English king, which

he did with great success. This was, of course, helped by the good working relationship that he had with the Archbishop of York, his marriage to Emma – a Norman princess but consecrated as an English queen – and the birth of a legitimate heir.

As king of England, Cnut took control of Denmark following his brother's death and spent much time abroad in the 1020s, suggesting that he felt that he could leave his English realm in a reasonably secure state. He spent much of his time in England toward the end of his reign, though, turning Winchester into a centre of Viking culture.



“A half-Danish, half-Polish prince was able to cross between the cultures of the North Sea world, and embed himself so solidly as an English ruler”

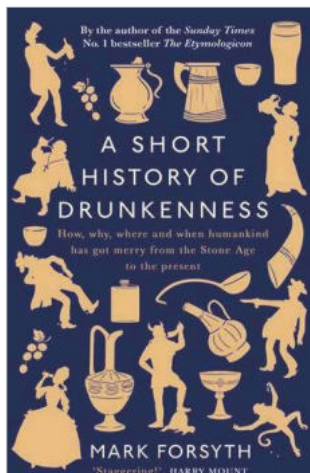
To what extent did Cnut succeed in establishing a Viking empire throughout England, Denmark and Norway?

Cnut's pretensions were certainly imperial, but you could describe what he actually established as an Anglo-Danish realm with a Norwegian colony. Indeed, his attempts to control parts of Norway exploited and exacerbated civil war there, and eventually led to the imposition of the unpopular regency of Cnut's first wife, Ælfgifu of Northampton – to whom he had remained married, regardless of his marriage to Emma.

What impression of Cnut would you like readers to leave this book with?

That a half-Danish, half-Polish prince was able to cross between

the cultures of the North Sea world, and embed himself so solidly as an English ruler yet still retain so many links to his Viking followers.

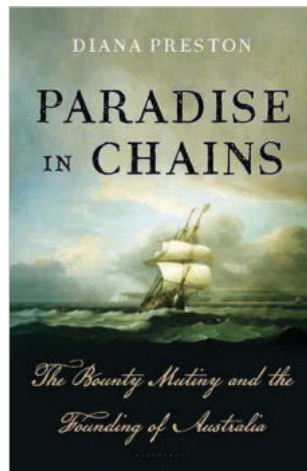


A Short History of Drunkenness

By Mark Forsyth

Viking, £12.99, hardback, 256 pages

This is not, in fact, a book about the average Christmas break, but instead an entertaining look back at intoxication and inebriation around the world. It's a brief, sometimes bawdy affair, spiked with trivia (such as how the Aztecs used alcohol to commune with divine powers; or that gin in 18th-century London was around 80 per cent proof).

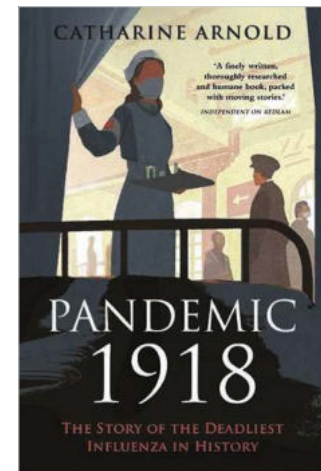


Paradise in Chains

By Diana Preston

Bloomsbury, £25, hardback, 352 pages

Set sail to the Pacific as Preston gives an evocative account of British exploration and colonisation of Australia and Polynesia. Key among the stories is the 1789 mutiny on the *Bounty*, in which crewmen seized control of the vessel and settled on, among other places, Tahiti. But throughout, Preston remains clear-eyed about the impact these and other people had on the lands they came to call home.

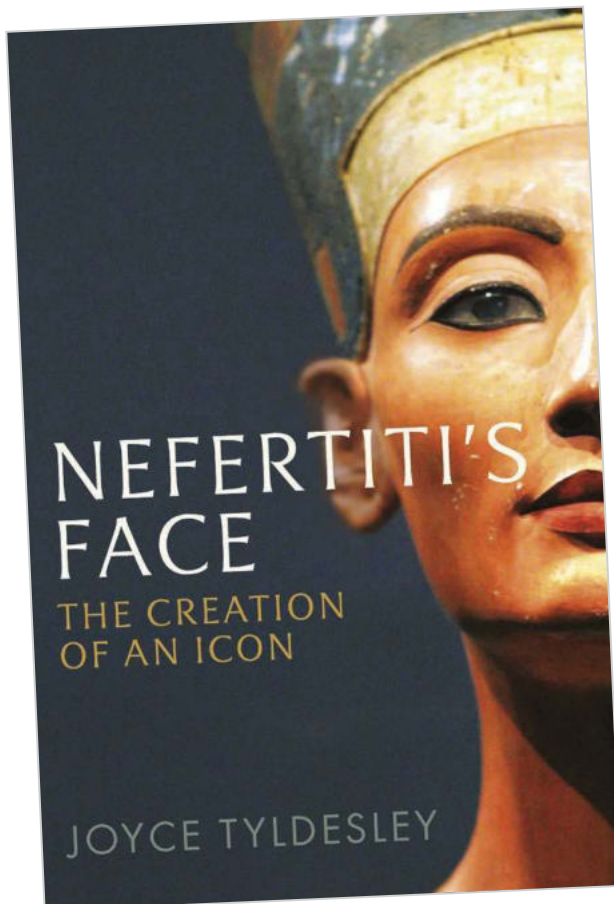


Pandemic 1918

By Catharine Arnold

Michael O'Mara, £20, hardback, 384 pages

The Spanish flu pandemic of a century ago left more than 50 million people dead and, coming hot on the heels of World War I, forever altered politics and societies around the world. Despite the global picture, and the enormous repercussions, Arnold's pacy history focuses on the stories of individuals, from scientists and politicians to the ordinary men and women who suffered.



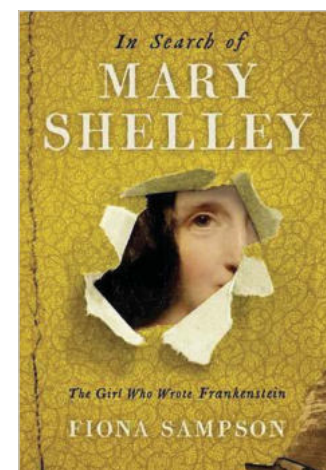
Nefertiti's Face: the Creation of an Icon

By Joyce Tyldesley

Profile Books, £20, hardback, 288 pages

There is still a chance you may not know her name, but you will almost certainly recognise her face. Or, at least, the bust of her face, which is currently held in Berlin. The real life of Egyptian queen Nefertiti remains largely hidden just out of view, but this warm and insightful book from historian and broadcaster Joyce Tyldesley explores the story of that bust, together with what we know about the monarch herself.

“You will certainly recognise her face”



In Search of Mary Shelley

By Fiona Sampson

Profile Books, £18.99, hardback, 320 pages

It's apt, if unfortunate, that Mary Shelley's fame has been somewhat eclipsed by her literary creation. Sampson aims to put that right, exploring letters, diaries and records to tell the story of her life and career. As we mark the 200th anniversary of *Frankenstein's* publication, this is a great time to learn more about an extraordinary woman.



POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

Send your historical landmark photos to photos@historyrevealed.com
– and follow us on Instagram [@historyrevmag](https://www.instagram.com/historyrevmag)

WIERSCHEM, GERMANY

“ I took this picture of Castle Eltz near the city of Wierschem in the early morning hours. It is one of the most spectacular and famous castles in Germany, with a unique architecture and charisma. The castle is deep in the middle of a valley with a huge forest and is often covered with fog, which makes it so special. ”

Taken by: Thomas Felzmann [@thomasfelzmann](https://www.instagram.com/thomasfelzmann)

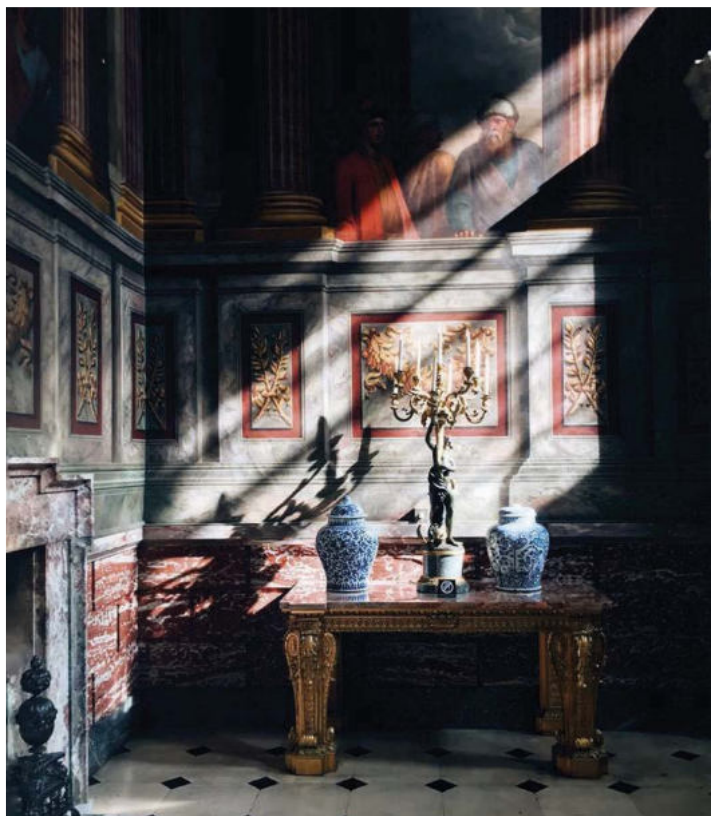




ZAGREB, CROATIA

“ I took the photo as part of a documentation effort of the several World War II memorial sculptures at Dotrščina Memorial Park in Zagreb, Croatia. The official name of this one is Monument to Revolutionaries Before the War. Many of these memorials are being destroyed, marginalised and forgotten in their local communities. If you have an opportunity to visit, it is a beautiful and moving experience. ”

Taken by: Donald Niebyl [@spomenikdatabase](#)



BLenheim PALACE, OXFORDSHIRE

“ It was a beautiful spring day when I visited and I captured this image just as some afternoon sun shone in onto the Baroque architecture, lighting everything up dramatically. ”

Taken by: Faith Lai [@afternoonswithfaith](#)

FEELING INSPIRED?

Send your snaps to us and we'll feature a selection every issue.
photos@historyrevealed.com

READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine

SAFE AS HOUSES

In December's cover feature *Civil War*, you mention the escape of Charles II from the Battle of Worcester in 1651. Close to my home are two houses that were instrumental in helping him escape to France.

Firstly, Boscobel House in Shropshire. The owners, the Giffard family, were Catholics who refused to worship in the Church of England churches. This meant imprisonment or worse – the execution of any priest in their house. Boscobel

was raining heavily. The soldiers didn't look in the trees because of the rain, so Charles and Careless remained undetected!

The next day, Charles ate lamb chops in the comfort of Boscobel House. But troops were still in the vicinity, so Charles was placed in a 'priest hole' for his safety. Charles was over six feet tall and the priest hole just over five feet high. The hiding place was then being

“His hiding place was used as a storeroom for cheese, making it hard for dogs to sniff him out”

had a 'priest hole' to hide them in.

One day, Charles and his escort, Colonel William Careless spent many hours hiding in an oak tree in Boscobel. Parliamentarian forces were searching the area on 6 September 1651, and it

used as a storeroom for cheese, which made it hard for dogs to sniff out a person.

From Boscobel, Charles was taken to Moseley Old Hall, another Catholic redoubt, owned by the Whitgreave family. After midnight on 10 September, Charles was led to Bentley Hall

near Walsall. The owner was Colonel John Lane, a one-time colonel in the Royalist Army. Lane had a sister, Jane, who had a permit to travel with servants to help a friend who was due to give birth. When Charles reached Bentley Hall, he was quickly dressed as a servant and called William Jackson.

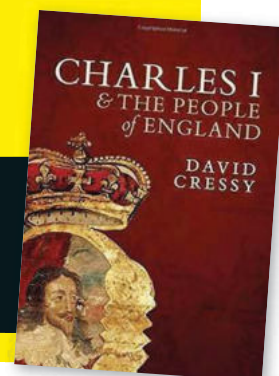
It took many weeks for Charles II to flee the country and many people helped him. He finally sailed for France at 7am on 16 October 1651. Later that day he arrived near Le Havre. Charles II had escaped!

ESCAPE TO FRANCE

King Charles II's escape during the Civil War played an important part in Peter's local history

On the Restoration in 1660, Charles II granted gifts to the families who helped him escape. Jane Lane received gifts, and Charles wrote a letter to her that remains on display at Moseley Old Hall, a house that, along with Boscobel, saved a King.
Peter Cadman,
via email

Peter wins a copy of *Charles I & the People of England* by David Cressy (2015). Cressy explores, using a treasure trove of sources, Charles I's fateful and ultimately tragic reign as seen through the eyes of his subjects, and delves into how England went from stability to division to regicide.



RESTRAINING
Our Deadly Fashions (Top Ten, December 2017) made one reader think about women's restrictions throughout history

DRESSED TO KILL

I have heard in the past that women's clothing in history was restrictive. However, Top Ten Deadly Fashions (December 2017) really brought this home. No wonder the ladies fainted – you would too, with your vital organs similarly crushed by a corset. It only added to the sexist attitudes of middle-class men towards perceived 'weak' women. You would be weak, dressed like that!

Jennifer Shelden, Leicester

qualified engineer Harry Ricardo decided that the tank was only way to advance past the machine gun and artillery-swept battlefield. However, weighing in at 25 tons, there was no engine powerful enough to move this new weapon. Ricardo was given the contract to develop such an engine, but only a modest amount of ordinary materials such as cast iron, steel and copper could be allocated to the project.

Taking the widely used Daimler engine as a basis, after several months of hard work this engine became sufficiently powerful to move the first generation of tanks across the

FIRE POWER

With regards to your piece on the *Dawn of the Tank* (November 2017), the newly

 Congratulations on 50 issues. Proud to say I've read every single one. My favourite magazine! Here's to the next 50! @aimzta85

battlefield. The Allies were now on their way to winning World War I.

After the war, the committee set up to award inventors was unable to identify any one person as the inventor of the tank. The belated award of a knighthood recognised the contribution that the now Sir Harry Ricardo had made, which would seem to make Sir Harry one of the heroes of the invention of the tank. Sadly, he is now almost forgotten.

James Wells, via email

HOME FRONT


On 6 December 1917, two ships – one laden with explosives – collided in Halifax Harbour. Canada suffered the largest man-made explosion before the 1945 atomic bomb. Nearly 2,000 lives were lost. A sad reminder that wars are fought at home as well as on the battlefield.

Alex Bowers, via Facebook

MASKED IDENTITY

I read the article on the Man in the Iron Mask (*Extraordinary Tales*, November 2017), but I disagree with the person you named. I think it was someone well known to the public, a hero of France for his exploits as a musketeer – Charles d'Artagnan, Captain of the First Musketeers. He had obtained knowledge of the real father of Louis XIV, and it definitely wasn't Louis XIII. More likely, it was Cardinal Mazarin, the lover of the Queen of France. An opportunity to silence d'Artagnan arose during the siege of Maastricht in 1673, where d'Artagnan was fighting. He was seriously wounded in battle and left for dead.

Louvois, the Minister of War, arranged for d'Artagnan

 I love getting these magazines!
Sara Leighanne Disborough



THE PRISONER

Brian has a different opinion on who the real 'Man in the Iron Mask' could have been

to be taken to the Bastille as a prisoner, then on to the Fortress of Pignerol under great secrecy. No one besides his gaoler, Saint Mars (an ex-Musketeer himself) was aware of the Man in the Iron Mask.

Louvois had condemned him to indefinite imprisonment without trial, without needing the approval of the King. To all intents and purposes, people thought d'Artagnan had died on the battlefield at Maastricht. Louis XIV was, for a number of years, unaware of the identity of the Man in the Iron Mask. He eventually died in the Bastille in 1711, having been imprisoned for 38 years – taking to the grave his knowledge of Louis XIV's true father.

Brian Farman, Crawley

WILD RIDE

I've just finished a thoroughly enjoyable and informative Issue 49 (December 2017). In particular I found Tomb Raider: The Great Belzoni by Jonny Wilkes very interesting, as I had not heard of him before.

Also, thanks for Pat Kinsella's *The Lone Ranger: 10,000 Miles in the Saddle*, which was about Tschiffely's Ride. I mentioned this to you a while ago as a possible subject for a feature. My Dad told me about it and gave me the book back in the 1950s. At the time of the event, in 1925, my Dad was about 8 years old and he remembered it making the news then.

Keep up the good work.
Barrie Vinten, Rugby

ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 49 are:
Stephen Kloppe, Croydon
Michael Cave, London
T. C. Hull, London

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of *Alone in Berlin*, RRP £16, a film about two brave members of the Berlin Resistance in World War II. Based on a real working class couple, Emma Thompson and Brendan Gleeson star.

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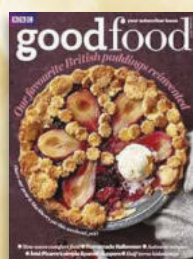
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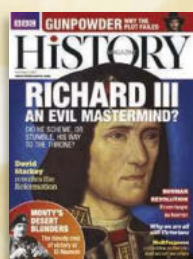
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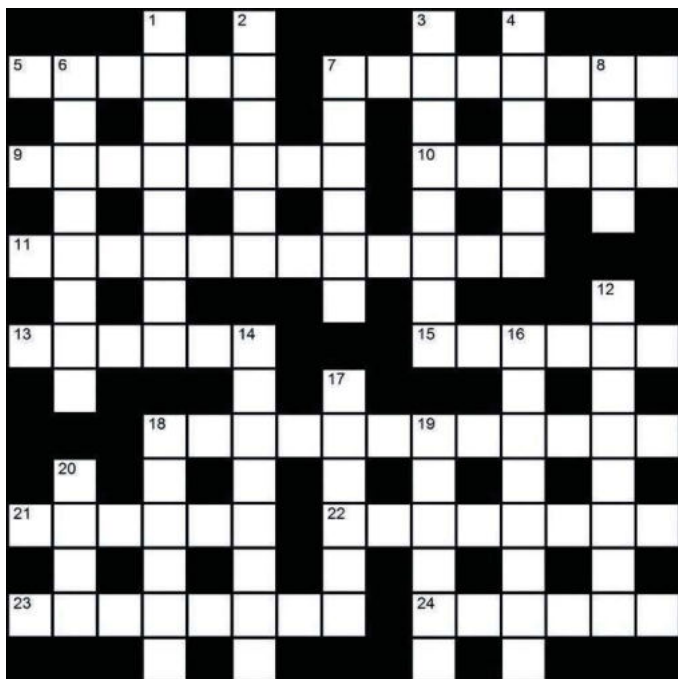
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CROSSWORD N° 51

Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic prize!

Set by Richard Smyth



ACROSS

- 5** Spanish port city and naval base, birthplace of Francisco Franco (6)
7 Donald ____ (1921–67), car and boat driver, killed on Coniston Water (8)
9 Kazuo ____ (b.1954), author of the historical novels *The Remains of the Day* and *The Buried Giant* (8)
10 Afrikaans term for a defensive circle of wagons (6)
11 Flemish painter (1610–90), of the Baroque period, known for peasant scenes (5,7)
13 Turkish term meaning 'destiny'; 1955 film musical (6)
15 One of the 12 Apostles of Jesus Christ, noted for his scepticism (6)

- 18** A 'new town', designated in 1967, in Buckinghamshire (6,6)
21 Hannah ____ (1906–75), German-born author of *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (6)
22 Geological period that came between the Permian and the Jurassic (8)
23 Term for a strikebreaker (8)
24 Kaspar ____ (d.1833), mysterious German youth found wandering the streets of Nuremberg in 1828 (6)

DOWN

- 1** Culture and religion of the ancient Britons (8)
2 Elizabeth 'Bessie' ____, long-time mistress of Henry VIII (6)
3 Tobias ____ (1721–71), Scottish

satirical author of *Humphry Clinker* and other works (8)

4 German submarines, especially in World War II (1–5)

6 ____ Vye, heroine of Thomas Hardy's *The Return of the Native* (1878) (8)

7 "Titles are shadows, ____ are empty things" – Daniel Defoe, 1701 (6)

8 Staffordshire town, formerly a noted producer of textiles, particularly silk (4)

12 Parisian schoolgirl created by Ludwig Bemelmans (8)

14 *The ____ Heart*, 1843 story by Edgar Allan Poe (4–4)

16 Legendary Ancient Greek hero of Homer's epic poem (8)

17 Susan ____ (1933–2004), American essay writer and political activist (6)

18 German city, capital of united Bavaria from 1506 (6)

19 Medieval cavalryman; English equivalent of a French *chevalier* (6)

20 ____ Sea, Central Asian lake drastically reduced in the 20th century by industry and irrigation (4)

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Post entries to **History Revealed, January 2018 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA** or email them to january2018@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk by noon on **1 February 2018**. By entering, participants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions shown in the box below. Immediate Media Co Ltd, publishers of *History Revealed*, would love to keep you informed by post or telephone of special offers and promotions from the Immediate Media Co Group. Please write 'Do Not Contact IMC' if you prefer not to receive such information by post or phone. If you would like to receive this information by email, please write your email address on the entry. You may unsubscribe from receiving these messages at any time. For more about the Immediate Privacy Policy, see the box below.

SOLUTION N° 49



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The competition is open to all UK residents (inc. Channel Islands), aged 18 or over, except Immediate Media Co Bristol Ltd employees or contractors, and anyone connected with the competition or their direct family members. By entering, participants agree to be bound by these terms and conditions and that their name and county may be released if they win. Only one entry per person.

The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of *History Revealed*) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at www.immediatemediaco.co.uk/privacy-policy.

The winning entrants will be the first correct entries drawn at random after the closing time. The prize and number of winners will be as shown on the Crossword page. There is no cash alternative and the prize will not be transferable. Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited's decision is final and no correspondence relating to the competition will be entered into. The winners will be notified by post within 28 days of the close of the competition. The name and county of residence of the winners will be published in the magazine within two months of the

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Could You Be A Writer?



Marian Ashcroft talks with Susie Busby, Principal of The Writers Bureau, Britain's largest independent writing school, about what it takes to be a writer.

Who do you think can be a writer then, Susie?

Well, a writer is someone who communicates ideas through words. And most of us do that every day via social media ... so we're all writers to some degree.

But can you really say someone is a writer if they text and tweet?

Not really. I suppose when we talk about a 'writer' we usually mean someone who's earning from their writing. But telling stories to friends online is writing too. And even there, you come across people who craft their sentences and play with words, which is a good indication that writing is their thing.

So, do you need to be a 'special' person to study with The Writers Bureau?

Not at all! WB has been going for 29 years now, and though some people come to us with very clear objectives, others have little more than a vague desire to do something creative. Our students come from all sorts of backgrounds, and all sorts of cultures – leafy home-counties villages, bustling African cities, and everywhere else between. The majority haven't really written much before, so we give them skills, and a safe space to explore their options, then prepare them for approaches to the editors, agents and producers who'll eventually push their work out into the world.

But you must be looking for something ...

Determination. Apart from a reasonable level of written English, that's all we're after.

Not talent?

Well, that helps. But talent's no good if you won't put the hours in. It's the same in all the creative industries. Like Mo Farah said back in 2012

– 'Anything's possible, it's just hard work and grafting.' And in our experience, grafting beats pure talent every time.

Okay, but if someone already has that 'grafting' spirit, where does The Writers Bureau fit in?

Well, to stick with sporting analogies, for any student ready to go for it, Writers Bureau is the coach in the background. Our courses and tutors build a new writer's confidence and help them find out what they're good at. We then show them how to get pieces ready for submission, so they've got the best possible chance of turning whatever talent they may have into proper, paid work.

Is that what happened with this year's Writer of the Year – Sarah Plater?

Exactly. When Sarah first joined us she wanted to write novels (still does). But on her course she discovered a talent for non-fiction. She's now onto her fourth non-fiction book, earns half her income from writing, and runs a writing business with her husband – Mr and Ms Creative. We're so proud of her. She's worked hard and run with opportunities as they've arisen, which just goes to show what a little confidence and determination can actually do.

Any final words of advice for aspiring writers?

Apart from taking one of our courses, you mean? No seriously, I believe a writer must do three things. Firstly, read lots, and widely. Next, write as much as possible – ideally every day. And finally, learn to edit. Anyone who can do these three things is well on the way to producing great work.

If you'd like to find out more about The Writers Bureau, take a look at their website: www.writersbureau.com or call their freephone number 0800 856 2008. Please quote 1Z118

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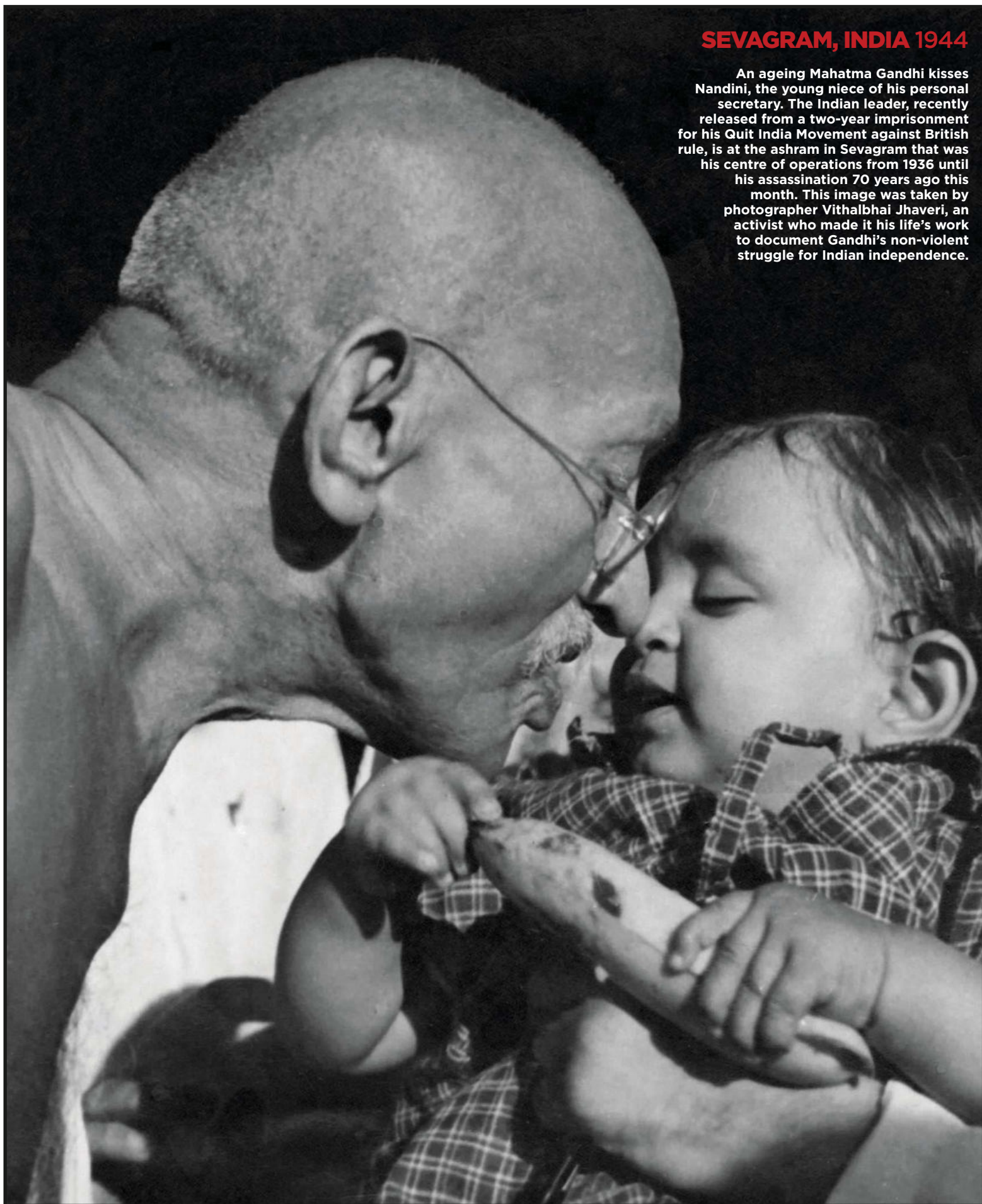
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GETTY X2

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SEVAGRAM, INDIA 1944

An ageing Mahatma Gandhi kisses Nandini, the young niece of his personal secretary. The Indian leader, recently released from a two-year imprisonment for his Quit India Movement against British rule, is at the ashram in Sevagram that was his centre of operations from 1936 until his assassination 70 years ago this month. This image was taken by photographer Vithalbhai Jhaveri, an activist who made it his life's work to document Gandhi's non-violent struggle for Indian independence.



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After the recent success of his latest book on the history of T.E. Lawrence in the region, archaeologist and historian Dr Neil Faulkner will lead our tour to Jordan. As well as retracing some of Lawrence's steps in Aqaba and Wadi Rum – home of the 'Seven Pillars of Wisdom' – we will explore the country's incredibly well-preserved ancient sites. Highlights include Jerash, one of the region's most impressive Roman cities, the crusader castle of Shobek built in 1115, and Petra – the Nabatean kingdom of spectacular façades carved from glowing red sandstone.



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Price from £1,998 (April, single supp. £358) or £1,896 (September, single supp. £290) for seven nights including flights, accommodation with breakfast, five lunches (some will be picnics), seven dinners, all sightseeing, entrance fees and gratuities and the services of the Kirker Tour Lecturer.



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